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RECENT IMMIGRANTS IN METROPOLITAN AREAS

STRATEGIC RESEARCH AND REVIEW
RECHERCHE ET EXAMEN STRATÉGIQUES

Recent Immigrants in the Edmonton Metropolitan Area

A Comparative Portrait Based on the 1996 Census

September 2000

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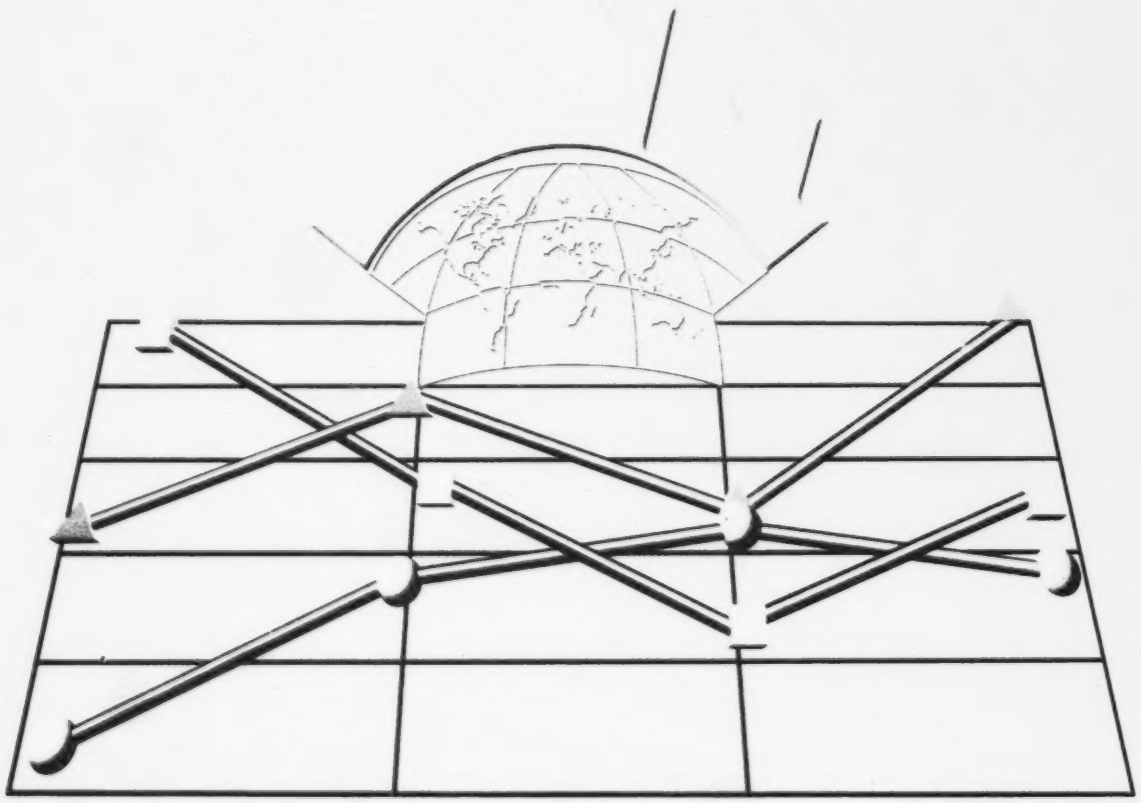

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RECENT IMMIGRANTS IN THE EDMONTON METROPOLITAN AREA

A COMPARATIVE PORTRAIT BASED ON THE 1996 CENSUS

Prepared by
INFORMETRICA LIMITED

For
Citizenship and Immigration Canada

September 2000

The opinions and interpretations expressed herein are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of Citizenship and Immigration Canada

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FOREWORD

This document presents a portrait of recent immigrants – persons who immigrated ("landed") after 1980 - living in the Edmonton area at the time of the 1996 census of population. It provides information, derived from the census, on the origin and background of immigrants, on family and household structure, on participation in the economy, on income and housing.

To assist the reader in interpreting the characteristics and circumstances of recent immigrants, comparisons are made throughout this document with earlier immigrants - those who arrived before 1981 - and with persons born in Canada. As well, recent immigrants have been subdivided into two groups: those who arrived in the 1980s and those who arrived in the first half of the nineties. The last group is variously called "most recent immigrants" or "very recent immigrants". Grouping immigrants by period of landing is helpful when considering the adjustment of new immigrants to Canadian society and the economy, which takes time.

Canada's immigration policy has various objectives: meeting labour market needs, family reunification, humanitarian goals. Policies have changed over time, and so has the background of new immigrants. As the categories through which immigrants are admitted are not identified in the census, this report does not relate the experience of immigrants to their immigration category. However, Canada's immigration policies, along with conditions in countries of origin and in Canada, have an impact on the background and circumstances of recent immigrants as documented in this report.

The report also presents data on earlier immigrants. This is intended not so much as a second portrait, but rather as an indication of the likely future circumstances of recent immigrants. There is no guarantee, of course, that recent immigrants will assume the same place in Canada's society and economy as have earlier generations of immigrants. There have been changes in the characteristics of immigrants over time. The Canadian population, society and economy have evolved as well. This portrait, however, indicates there is also a good deal of continuity in the characteristics of immigrants, and it shows that recent immigrants are making a place for themselves in this country. There are strong indications that the relative economic conditions of recent immigrants will improve with time after their arrival in Canada, for instance.

This portrait of recent immigrants living in the Edmonton area is one of a series of 13 portraits for major urban centres where the overwhelming majority of recent immigrants live. Each of the 13 profiles highlights a census metropolitan area (CMA; for a definition see the second text box on the next page). The CMAs or major urban agglomerations are: Toronto, Vancouver, Montreal, Victoria, Edmonton, Calgary, Saskatoon, Regina, Winnipeg, Hamilton, Ottawa, Quebec City and Halifax. Also available is a profile of recent immigrants in Canada. This profile covers the same material as the profiles for urban centres. It also provides comparisons between five geographic areas (Toronto, Vancouver, Montreal, the ten other cities combined, and the rest of Canada).

This comparative portrait of recent immigrants in Edmonton was prepared by Informetrica Limited and is published by Citizenship and Immigration Canada to inform the Canadian public, in particular persons and organisations with an interest in immigrants, including officials of provincial, regional and local governments, and organisations providing services to immigrants.

In this document, text boxes provide information of a technical nature about the topics covered, such as definitions of concepts used and notes to tables and charts. Here are some general points that may assist the reader:

Highlights are presented before the main report. The Highlights section is divided into six parts like the report itself.

Headings of topics summarise the thrust of the information presented, in telegram style. Thus, a quick impression of the characteristics and circumstances of recent immigrants can be gleaned from the table of contents. In the style used in the headings, all comparative statements refer to recent immigrants and the Canadian-born. Thus, "Fewer children among recent immigrants" means that children under 15 years of age make up a smaller proportion of recent immigrants than of the Canadian-born.

The text describes and comments on the data displayed in figures and tables. The text does not always quote the precise numbers in the tables, but states them in an approximate or rounded manner. For instance, "41%" may be described as "two-fifths" or "two out of five". As well, whereas tables and figures display information for two groups - immigrants who landed in the 1980s and those who landed during 1991-1996 - the text often refers to these jointly as "recent immigrants".

Numbers of people are rounded to the nearest 10 or 100, and as a rule no decimals are shown for percentages. Shares may not add to 100 per cent because of rounding.

Readers should be aware that there may be many reasons behind the differences featured in any display in this document: the background of immigrants, the experience of immigration, Canada's immigration policy, etc. One important source of difference is age structure. There are more adults aged 25 to 44 and fewer children among recent immigrants than the Canadian-born, and earlier immigrants on average are considerably older than recent immigrants or the Canadian-born. Age structure is examined in this portrait, and where differences in age are important, information is provided separately for age groups. However, readers are advised that differences in age can be a significant factor even when age is not explicitly addressed.

A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of a large urban core with a population of at least 100,000 together with adjacent urban and rural areas that have a high degree of social and economic integration with the urban core.

In 1996, the Edmonton CMA included the following municipalities: Edmonton, Bruderheim, Strathcona County, Fort Saskatchewan, Sturgeon, St. Albert, Gibbons, Redwater, Bon Accord, Morinville, Legal, Leduc, Leduc County No. 25, Beaumont, New Sarepta, Devon, Calmar, Thorsby, Golden Days, Warburg, Spruce Grove, Parkland County, Entwistle, Seba Beach, Wabamun, Edmonton Beach, Stony Plain and Spruce Grove. Throughout this profile, the Edmonton CMA, with all of its component municipalities, is referred to simply as Edmonton.

The population data presented in this report do not include non-permanent residents. In 1996 for the first time, Statistics Canada included non-permanent residents in the population. There were 167,000 non-permanent residents in Canada in 1996, bringing the official population count to 28,528,000 instead of the 28,361,000 shown here.

HIGHLIGHTS

This portrait describes recent immigrants in the Edmonton metropolitan area ("Edmonton" for short) as of 1996. Recent immigrants are immigrants who landed during the period 1981-1996. Immigrants who landed during 1991 to 1996 are called very recent or most recent immigrants.

The background, personal attributes and outcomes of immigrants reflect Canada's immigration policies, and the choices immigrants make as to where to live in Canada.

Labour market behaviour, the jobs of recent immigrants, and their income and housing conditions describe the adjustment of immigrants to the economy. This process clearly takes time. Many immigrants do not immediately access long-term jobs that match their formal education, and the initial years are marked by relatively low income, large households and crowded housing. As their stay lengthens, however, they more or less catch up to those who were here before, although some differences remain. In Edmonton, however, relatively high proportions of recent immigrants entered through the economic class, have income from investments, and own their homes.

Immigrants and recent immigrants (Part A)

- In 1996 there were 67,200 recent immigrants in Edmonton, 3.2 per cent of all recent immigrants living in Canada, accounting for four out of ten immigrants in Edmonton (42%) and 8 per cent of the population of the metropolitan area.

- Four out of five immigrants who landed during the 1980s had become Canadian citizens by 1996.

Who are the recent immigrants (Part B):

- Recent immigrants living in Edmonton come from all over the world. Asian origins dominate. The top five countries of birth of Edmonton's most recent immigrants, where one-half of them were born, are all in Asia.

- Four in ten recent immigrants destined to Edmonton entered through the family class. The share entering through the economic class was a little over one-third. Refugees made up twenty per cent of those who landed during 1981-1996.

- Forty-eight per cent of recent immigrants are 25 to 44 years of age, and 12 per cent are children under 15. Of Edmonton's Canadian-born population, these groups make up one-third and one-quarter respectively. Fifty-three per cent of recent immigrants are women, a larger share than of the Canadian-born.

- Eighty-five per cent of those who immigrated between 1991 and 1996 reported being able to conduct a conversation in English or French. The proportion declines with age: it is 94 per cent in the 15-24 age group, and just over one-third for seniors.

- For two out of three very recent immigrants the language most often spoken at home is neither English nor French, but a foreign language.

- The level of education of recent immigrants in Edmonton is similar to that of the Canadian-born, but the proportions with a university degree and with only elementary schooling are higher. Recent immigrants contribute to the number of physical scientists and engineers. Adults pursue studies at a high rate.

Families and households (Part C)

- Very few recent immigrants, including seniors, live alone. About one in six of those living with relatives live in an extended-family arrangement, more than twice the rate among the Canadian-born.

- Recent immigrant families are more likely than Canadian-born families to include never-married children, and this at a later stage in the life of the parents. Older recent immigrant families are also somewhat larger than Canadian-born families.

- There are relatively fewer lone-parent families among recent immigrants than among the Canadian-born.

- Households consisting of recent immigrants with or without other Canadians make up 9 per cent of all households in Edmonton. Households of immigrants who landed during the 1990s account for less than one-half of recent immigrant households and 4 per cent of all households.

- Family households larger than a nuclear family are rather common among recent immigrants. One in five households of recent immigrants, and only one in sixteen households whose adult members are all Canadian-born are of this type. Households of recent immigrants are significantly larger than Canadian-born households.

Participation in the economy (Part D)

- The adjustment of immigrants to the economy takes time. Immigrants who landed during the 1990s have a lower rate of participation in the labour force, a higher unemployment rate, and jobs requiring a lower level of skill than the Canadian-born and earlier immigrants. Those who immigrated during the 1980s occupy a middle position.

- The fact that labour market and job skill level statistics of persons who immigrated before the 1980s closely resemble those of the Canadian-born suggests that the large majority of recent immigrants will in time fully adjust to and participate in the economy.

- The pattern of initially low labour force participation and high unemployment followed by convergence to the rates of the Canadian-born and earlier immigrants occurs across all age-gender groups and all but the lowest level of education. The disparities between recent immigrants and the Canadian-born tend to be smaller for men than for women.

- Lack of knowledge of English is a major barrier to labour force participation. However, it accounts for only a small part of the disparity in labour force participation of the most recent immigrants, and its significance diminishes over time as immigrants learn English.

- Employment of recent immigrants tends to be more than that of the Canadian-born in sales, service and processing occupations, and in the manufacturing and hospitality and other services sectors. Administrative and management and social occupations, business services, the public sector and construction and transportation account for smaller shares of the jobs of recent immigrants than of the Canadian-born. The jobs of recent immigrants require a relatively low level of skill, and the skills of recent immigrants are not fully utilised.

Income (Part E)

- On average among persons reporting income for the year 1995, the income of the most recent immigrants is one-half of that of the Canadian-born, while those who immigrated during the 1980s have reached about three-quarters of that level. The proportion of recent immigrants having employment income is lower than that of the Canadian-born, as is the proportion having other private income such as investment and pension income.

- Transfers from government make up a larger share of the income of recent immigrant households in the below 65 age group than of Canadian-born households. For households of recently immigrated seniors, the share of transfers is significantly lower than for the Canadian-born.

- Over time, the average income of immigrants increases. While one-half of the most recent immigrants have no income or income under $10,000, less than one-quarter of earlier immigrants do. The average level of income of recent immigrant households is slightly higher than that of Canadian-born households, and the size distributions of income are similar.

- A large share of very recent immigrants (just over one third) experience low income, i.e., they live in families with income of less than one-half of median family income, or, if they do not live in a family, have income of less than one-half of the median income of unattached individuals. The proportion declines as length of stay increases, and is the same for earlier immigrants as for the Canadian-born.

Housing (Part F)

- It is more common for recent immigrants than Canadian-born to live in crowded conditions. One quarter of recent immigrant households live in crowded conditions – i.e. have one person or more per room - compared to 4 per cent of Canadian-born households. About one-third of very recent immigrant households lives in crowded conditions. Crowding is more common among larger recent immigrant households.

- It is somewhat more common for recent immigrant households than for Canadian-born households to spend a large share of income on accommodation. One-third of recent immigrant households spend more than 30 per cent of their income on shelter, compared to one-quarter of Canadian-born households. For households consisting only of persons who immigrated between 1991 and 1994, this share is 46 per cent.

- Home ownership is quite common among recent immigrant households. One third of households consisting only of very recent immigrants own their home, while six in ten other recent immigrant households do so. The latter share is as high as that of the Canadian-born.

PART A: IMMIGRANTS AND RECENT IMMIGRANTS

158,000 immigrants in Edmonton Metropolitan Area

Table A.1: Total and Immigrant Population, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, Alberta, and Canada, 1981-1996

				Change 1981-1991		Change 1991-1996		Change 1981-1996	
	1981	1991	1996	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Edmonton CMA									
Immigrants	127,700	152,800	158,300	25,100	20%	5,500	4%	30,700	24%
Canadian-born	523,200	673,400	691,600	150,200	29%	18,200	3%	168,400	32%
Total Population	650,900	826,300	850,000	175,400	27%	23,700	3%	199,100	31%
Alberta									
Immigrants	360,200	381,500	405,100	21,400	6%	23,600	6%	45,000	12%
Canadian-born	1,853,500	2,123,600	2,253,000	270,100	15%	129,400	6%	399,500	22%
Total Population	2,213,700	2,505,100	2,658,100	291,400	13%	153,000	6%	444,500	20%
Canada									
Immigrants	3,827,500	4,342,900	4,971,100	515,400	13%	628,200	14%	1,143,600	30%
Canadian-born	20,256,000	22,427,800	23,390,300	2,171,800	11%	962,600	4%	3,134,300	15%
Total Population	24,083,500	26,770,600	28,361,400	2,687,100	11%	1,590,800	6%	4,277,900	18%

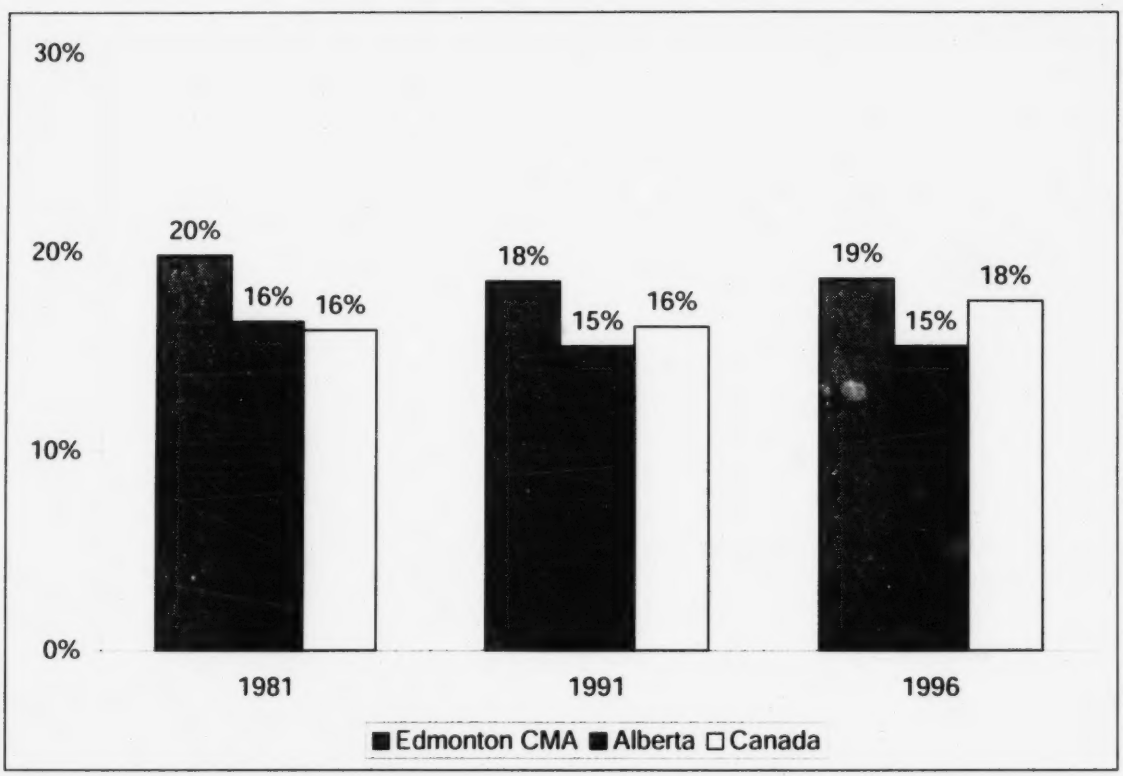
According to the census, there were 158,300 immigrants living in the Census Metropolitan Area (CMA; for a definition see the Foreword) of Edmonton (i.e., the Edmonton area or Edmonton for short) in 1996. The immigrant population in Edmonton has increased over the 15 years ending in 1996, but at a slower pace than the Canadian-born population. Over the period spanning 1981 to 1996, the number of immigrants living in Edmonton increased by 30,700 or 24 per cent. In comparison, Edmonton's Canadian-born population increased by 168,400 or 32 per cent. Immigrants accounted for 15 per cent of Edmonton's total population growth between 1981 and 1996.

Edmonton's immigrant population has grown at a faster pace than the immigrant population in Alberta, but at a slower rate than Canada's immigrant population. Recent growth has been comparatively slow. In the most recent five-year period, between 1991 and 1996, the number of immigrants in Edmonton CMA increased by 5,500, or 4 per cent. By comparison, the total number of immigrants living in Canada increased by 628,200 or 14 per cent during the same five years.

In 1996, Edmonton was the place of residence of 3.0 per cent of the population of Canada, up from 2.7 per cent in 1981, and of 3.2 per cent of Canada's five million immigrants, about the same share as in 1981 (3.3%; shares not shown in Table A.1). The metropolitan area's share of the country's Canadian-born population was 3.0 per cent, up from 2.6 per cent 15 years earlier.

In 1996, Edmonton's share of Alberta's population was 32 per cent, up from 29 per cent 15 years earlier. Its share of the province's immigrants was 39 percent, compared to 35 per cent in 1981. Its share of the province's Canadian-born population was 31 per cent, compared to 28 per cent in 1981.

Figure A.1: Number of immigrants as a percentage of the population, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, Alberta, and Canada, 1981-1996



The proportion of Edmonton's population comprised of immigrants has increased marginally since 1991 after declining somewhat between 1981 and 1991. In 1981, immigrants represented 20 per cent of the population. In 1996, immigrants accounted for 19 per cent of the population. The proportion of immigrants in the population of Alberta has also been fairly constant, while that of Canada increased during the first half of the 1990s. The proportion of immigrants in Edmonton's population is just slightly higher than the proportion in the country overall.

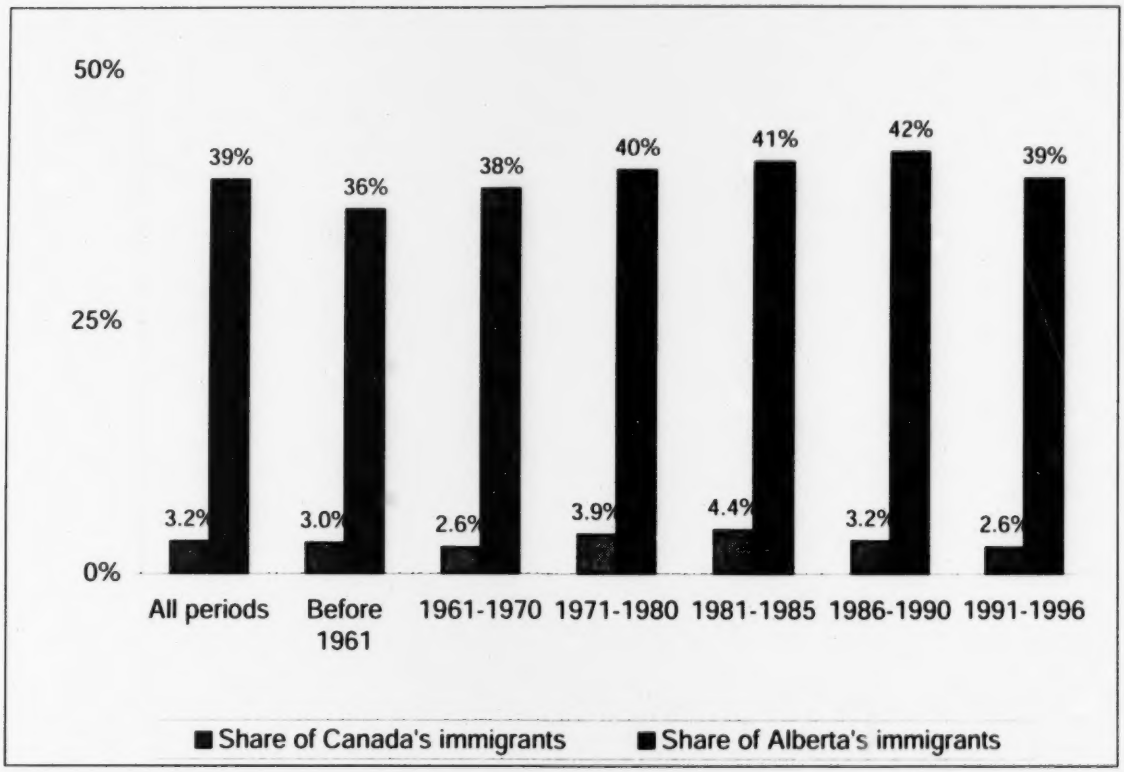
Four out of ten immigrants landed after 1980

Table A.2: Immigrant population by period of immigration, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996

Period of immigration	Edmonton		Alberta		Canada	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Before 1961	31,900	20%	88,500	22%	1,054,900	21%
1961-1970	20,500	13%	53,700	13%	788,600	16%
1971-1980	38,700	24%	96,800	24%	996,200	20%
1981-1985	17,500	11%	42,800	11%	401,400	8%
1986-1990	22,500	14%	53,700	13%	691,000	14%
1991-1996	27,300	17%	69,600	17%	1,039,000	21%
Total	158,300	100%	405,100	100%	4,971,100	100%

Many of Edmonton's immigrants have lived in Canada for a long time. More than one-half of the 158,300 immigrants living in Edmonton in 1996 (57%) arrived in Canada more than 15 years earlier. The share of Edmonton's immigrant population that landed after 1980 is the same as the share in Alberta, and in all of Canada. Four in ten immigrants living in Edmonton landed in Canada after 1980 (42%). In Alberta, 41 per cent of immigrants arrived after 1980, and for Canada, the share is 43 per cent. Moreover, 17 per cent of immigrants living in Edmonton in 1996 arrived after 1990 compared with 17 per cent in the province of Alberta and 21 per cent in Canada.

Figure A.2: Percentage of Canada's and Alberta's immigrants residing in Edmonton Metropolitan Area, by period of immigration, 1996



In 1996, 3.2 per cent of Canada's 5 million immigrants were living in Edmonton. Edmonton's share of Canada's immigrants varies according to the period of immigration. It has as a somewhat larger share of immigrants who landed in the 1970s and the first half of the 1980s, and a somewhat smaller share of the most recent immigrants.

In 1996, 39 per cent of Alberta's immigrants lived in Edmonton. Edmonton's share has varied between 36 and 42 per cent depending on the period of immigration.

Table A.3: Recent immigrants, number and percentage of the population, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, Alberta and Canada, 1996

	Edmonton CMA		Alberta		Canada	
Period of immigration	Number	% of population	Number	% of population	Number	% of population
1981-1985	17,500	2.0%	42,800	1.6%	401,400	1.4%
1986-1990	22,500	2.6%	53,700	2.0%	691,000	2.4%
1991-1996	27,300	3.2%	69,600	2.6%	1,039,000	3.6%
Total 1981-1996	67,200	7.9%	166,100	6.2%	2,131,400	7.5%

In 1996, there were 67,200 recent immigrants (defined as those arriving in Canada after 1980) living in Edmonton, representing close to 8 per cent of the population of the metropolitan area. The share of Edmonton's population comprised of recent immigrants is very close to the national share of 7.5 per cent.

In Edmonton, the most recent arrivals - those who came to Canada in the 1991 to 1996 period - numbered 27,300, representing 3.2 per cent of the population. In Canada as a whole, the most recent arrivals numbered just over one million, representing 3.6 per cent of the population.

Large majority of recent immigrants have become Canadian citizens

By 1996, a large majority of Edmonton's immigrants who arrived in Canada during the 1980s – 81 per cent – had become Canadian citizens. Recent immigrants from most countries are becoming Canadians in high proportions, from 70 per cent to close to 100 per cent. Among Edmonton's top ten countries of birth of immigrants who landed during the 1980s (See Table B.1), more than 90 per cent of those from Hong Kong, the People's Republic of China and Viet Nam had obtained Canadian citizenship by 1996, while between 70 and 90 per cent of those from the Philippines, El Salvador, Poland and the United Kingdom had done so.

A significant share of immigrants from Western Europe and a number of other countries – including India and the United States of the top ten countries of birth – are postponing or forgoing Canadian citizenship. The rate of acquisition of Canadian citizenship by persons who immigrated from these countries during the eighties is less than 70 per cent, the lowest being 23 per cent. For western European countries especially, the rate of naturalization has dropped significantly from levels above 80 per cent for earlier immigrants.

Immigrants from these countries may want to keep open the option of returning to their country of birth. Depending on policies in countries of birth, people may not be able to retain their original nationality if they become Canadian citizens. As well, children born in Canada while the immigrant parents are still citizens of their country of birth may have certain rights in that country.

In today's global economic village there are more and more people who live in more than one country over the course of their working lives. To work in Canada, they may become landed immigrants; but they may not have the intention of becoming Canadian citizens, and may never do so.

The large majority of immigrants, however, clearly continue to opt for Canadian citizenship. Eighty-one per cent of immigrants who landed during the eighties had already done so by June 1996; many more are likely to follow in the years to come.

Citizenship refers to a person's legal citizenship status, as reported in the 1996 census. In Canada, there is a residence requirement of three years before Canadian citizenship can be acquired. As a result, many immigrants who arrived in Canada between 1991 and 1996 were not yet eligible for Canadian citizenship at the time the census was carried out in 1996. For this reason, this group is not considered here. Instead, focus is on persons who immigrated between 1981 and 1990.

In preparing Figure A.3 we did not consider all countries of birth of recent immigrants living in Edmonton in 1996. A country was considered if :

- it is the place of birth of at least 10,000 immigrants living in Canada, and
- if the number of immigrants of the 1980s born in that country and living in Edmonton is at least 50.

To increase the comparability with information from earlier censuses, we regrouped together in "Countries of the former USSR", "Countries of the former Czech and Slovak Federal Republic" and in "Countries of the former Yugoslavia" former member countries of these blocks, which may be listed in Figure A.3, and in Tables B.1 and B.2 in the next section. These countries are:

Countries of the former USSR: *Ukraine, Russian Federation, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Balarus, Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.*

Countries of the former Czech and Slovak Federal Republic: *Czech Republic and Slovakia.*

Countries of the former Yugoslavia: *Yugoslavia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, and Macedonia.*

Figure A.3: Canadian citizenship by country of birth, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996

More than 90 percent of Edmonton's immigrants who arrived in Canada during the eighties and were born in these countries have become Canadian citizens:	Less than 70 percent of Edmonton's immigrants who arrived in Canada during the eighties and were born in these countries have become Canadian citizens:	More than one-third of Edmonton's immigrants who arrived in Canada during the eighties and were born in these countries have **dual citizenship**:
Afghanistan	Fiji	Israel
Bangladesh	Ireland, Republic of (Eire)	Bangladesh
Countries of former Yugoslavia	Turkey	Afghanistan
Romania	Malaysia	Egypt
Iran	India	Countries of former Yugoslavia
Egypt	Mexico	Poland
Laos	Somalia	Countries of former Czech and Slovak Federal Republic
Hong Kong	Germany	Argentina
Iraq	Greece	Taiwan
China, People's Republic of	Portugal	Hungary
Ethiopia	United States	United Kingdom
Israel	Japan	Sri Lanka
Viet Nam	Australia	Ireland, Republic of (Eire)
Guyana	Netherlands	Turkey
Countries of former U.S.S.R.		
Tanzania, United Republic of		
Hungary		
Ghana		
Kenya		

Percent of immigrants with Canadian Citizenship (including those with dual citizenship)		**Percent of immigrants with dual citizenship**	
Immigrated before 1981:	87%	Immigrated before 1981:	11%
Immigrated 1981-1990:	81%	Immigrated 1981-1990:	17%

Overall, one in six immigrants (17 %) who arrived during the 1980s had acquired Canadian citizenship while retaining the citizenship of another country. Dual citizenship is more common among recent than earlier immigrants. Among Edmonton's immigrants who arrived in Canada before 1981, about one in ten (11%) reported dual citizenship in 1996.

PART B: WHO ARE THE RECENT IMMIGRANTS?

Origin, destination and immigration class

Asian origins predominant

Table B.1: Immigrants' top ten places of birth, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996

Place of Birth	Number	Percentage		Number	Percentage
Immigrated 1991-1996					
1 Philippines	3,450	13%	Total of top ten countries	18,240	67%
2 China	2,870	11%			
3 Hong Kong	2,850	10%	All other countries	9,030	33%
4 India	2,150	8%			
5 Viet Nam	1,840	7%	Total	27,270	100%
6 Poland	1,430	5%			
7 Countries of former Yugoslavia	1,220	4%			
8 Countries of former USSR	940	3%			
9 United States	780	3%			
10 United Kingdom	710	3%			
Immigrated 1981-1990					
1 Poland	4,210	11%	Total of top ten countries	25,540	64%
2 Viet Nam	4,180	10%			
3 China	3,160	8%	All other countries	14,410	36%
4 Hong Kong	2,760	7%			
5 India	2,560	6%	Total	39,950	100%
6 Philippines	2,500	6%			
7 United Kingdom	2,290	6%			
8 United States	1,410	4%			
9 El Salvador	1,370	3%			
10 Brunei Darussalam	1,110	3%			
Immigrated before 1981					
1 United Kingdom	16,690	18%	Total of top ten countries	58,810	65%
2 Germany	8,110	9%			
3 United States	5,300	6%	All other countries	32,340	35%
4 Netherlands	5,160	6%			
5 Poland	5,000	5%	Total	91,150	100%
6 Italy	4,340	5%			
7 China	4,130	5%			
8 India	3,830	4%			
9 Countries of former USSR	3,140	3%			
10 Hong Kong	3,110	3%			

Edmonton's immigrants come from the world over, and represent a diversity of cultural and linguistic backgrounds. In the seventies, and even more so in the sixties and fifties, Europe was the main source. The majority of recent immigrants living in Edmonton come from Asia.

In 1996, for example, there were 27,270 residents of Edmonton who had very recently landed in Canada, between 1991 and 1996. The most common country of birth for these immigrants was the Philippines, accounting for 13 per cent of these new arrivals to Canada. Of the ten most common countries of birth, the top five were Asian countries – the Philippines, the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, India and Viet Nam – and together these accounted for one half (49%) of these very recent immigrants. Three of these countries were among the top ten source countries before 1981, but their share of the total was smaller. As well, prior to 1981, several European countries – the United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and Italy – were among the major source countries. Only Poland has maintained its share among the more recent immigrants.

Edmonton's share of recent immigrants varies by country of birth

Table B.2 does not list all countries of birth of recent immigrants living in Edmonton in 1996. A country is included if:

- it is the place of birth of at least 10,000 recent immigrants living in Canada in 1996, and
- if the number of recent immigrants born in that country and living in Edmonton is at least 0.5 per cent (rounded to 1 per cent in the table) of the number living in all of Canada.

For some immigrant groups, Edmonton is a preferred area of residence. For example, of the 11,000 Fiji-born individuals living in Canada who immigrated between 1981 and 1996, 1,240 or 12 per cent were living in Edmonton in 1996. Edmonton is also home to a relatively large share of Malaysia-, Viet Nam- and El Salvador-born recent immigrants to Canada. This is in contrast to the settlement patterns of Taiwan-, Sri Lanka- and Portugal-born recent immigrants, of whom only one per cent were residing in Edmonton in 1996.

Table B.2: Number of recent immigrants to Canada by country of birth and share residing in Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996

Countries of Birth	Total Recent Immigrants to Canada	Share residing in Edmonton
Fiji	11,040	12%
Malaysia	12,895	9%
Viet Nam	97,550	6%
El Salvador	37,745	5%
Poland	110,350	5%
Cambodia	14,810	5%
Philippines	127,765	5%
Chile	12,150	4%
Ethiopia	13,340	4%
Countries of former U.S.S.R.	34,925	4%
China, People's Republic of	153,295	4%
Countries of former Czech and Slovak Federal Republic	12,125	4%
Lebanon	44,280	3%
India	139,425	3%
United Kingdom	88,870	3%
Germany	25,500	3%
Countries of former Yugoslavia	45,435	3%
Total – Recent Immigrants	2,131,400	3%
Hong Kong	185,895	3%
Total – Canadian-born	23,390,300	3%
United States	75,435	3%
South Africa, Republic of	14,770	3%
Pakistan	26,360	2%
Afghanistan	10,720	2%
Peru	11,705	2%
Jamaica	50,975	2%
Iraq	14,335	2%
Korea, South	30,270	2%
Guatemala	12,160	2%
Ghana	11,295	2%
Italy	11,905	2%
Egypt	15,075	2%
Romania	29,860	2%
Mexico	18,325	2%
Somalia	16,475	1%
Trinidad and Tobago	27,655	1%
Iran	43,470	1%
Portugal	42,550	1%
Guyana	43,220	1%
Sri Lanka	63,780	1%
Taiwan	43,415	1%

Large majority immigrated through family and economic class

The number of immigrants destined for Edmonton increased by one-third from 1981-85 to 1991-95, as a result of Canada's decision to admit more immigrants. More persons were admitted through each of the major classes. The family class is the largest with close to 40 per cent of the total, followed by the economic class with close to 35 per cent. The refugee share is about 20 per cent, more than the Canadian average of 14 per cent. The "other" class consists of retired persons, which increased in number during the early 1990s. Also in the "other" class during the early 1990s were a number of persons living in the country who were formally admitted as landed immigrants, and live-in caregivers.

According to the census, there are fewer recent immigrants living in Edmonton in 1996 than the number who landed during the period 1981-1995 (see Table A.3). This reflects the fact that recent immigrants who have subsequently moved away from the area or have died outnumber those who have moved to Edmonton from other parts of the country.

Table B.3: Recent immigrants by immigration class, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1981-1995

	1981-1985	1986-1990	1991-1995
Family class	11,700	10,900	16,200
Economic class	9,200	11,500	13,400
Refugees	5,800	7,900	4,400
Other	500	400	2,000
Total	27,100	30,600	36,000

The 1996 Census did not ask immigrants about the immigration categories through which they were admitted to Canada. This information is available only from records at Citizenship and Immigration Canada, and pertains to the time of landing.

Under Canada's immigration policy there are three major categories of immigration. These categories correspond broadly to the economic, family reunification and humanitarian or protection objectives of the Immigration Act. Hence, persons entering the country as immigrants or refugees have different reasons to do so and accordingly are likely to face different challenges and opportunities after landing in Canada.

Immigrants entering through the *economic* category are persons who have actively sought to settle in Canada and have presumably prepared themselves for the transition. They are selected as individuals and may be accompanied by a spouse and dependants. Only the selected immigrants are assessed against criteria designed to maximise the probability of success in the labour market or in business. Spouses and dependants in this category are not screened against selection criteria but are nevertheless part of the family unit who shared in the decision to move and participated in the preparations for transition. Less than one-half of the economic category are screened against selection criteria.

The *family reunification* category is made up of individuals who are joining family members already established in Canada. These immigrants are not assessed against labour market criteria. They are, however, sponsored by a relative in Canada who is a Canadian citizen or permanent resident and who has taken the responsibility of providing support for their settlement. Hence, those in the family reunification category are less likely than their counterparts in the economic category to have moved for economic reasons directly related to the labour market or business.

The *refugee* category is made up of Convention refugees and other refugee-like persons who are deemed to require protection or relief. These persons may not have wanted to leave their country of origin and may not have had the opportunity to prepare for moving to Canada. Refugees are expected to take longer to adjust to their new environment and their economic achievements may be modest compared to those of immigrants in the economic category.

During the period 1981-1995, immigrants were also admitted, in smaller numbers, through special categories or programs established for humanitarian or public policy reasons. These *other* immigrants include, for instance: live-in caregivers in Canada, members of the former retired immigrant class, Post-Determination Refugee Claimants in Canada and persons landed through the Deferred Removal Order Class and the Backlog Clearance program.

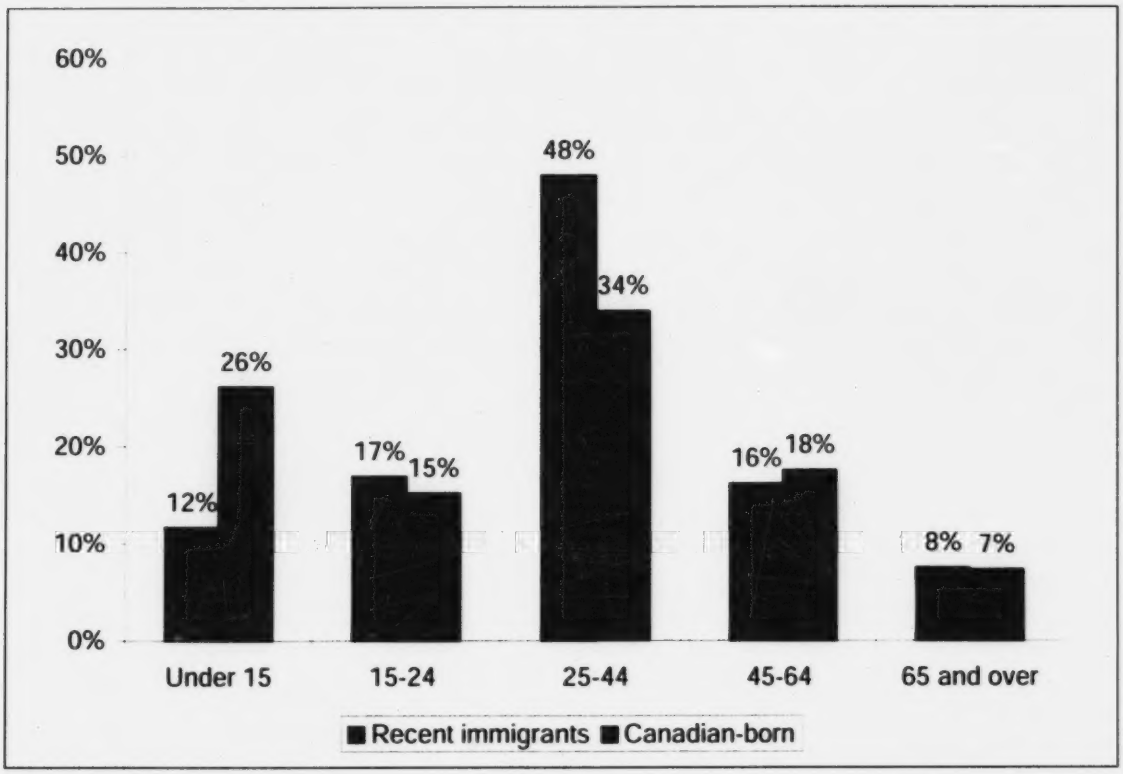
The number and characteristics of immigrants by immigration category have been shown to have an impact on the adjustment process and are reflected in the statistics on immigrants presented in this report. In addition, other factors that influence the circumstances of the population of Canada, and in particular metropolitan areas, also have an effect on the conditions of recent and earlier immigrants living in these areas.

This section presents, by category of immigration, the number of immigrants landed between 1981 and 1995 who indicated they intended to settle in the Edmonton metropolitan area. These numbers are presented for indicative purposes only. They cannot be taken as an accurate description of the population of recent immigrants in the Edmonton area as some have, for instance, moved away, some have died, and other recent immigrants may have moved to Edmonton from other parts of Canada.

Age and gender

Fewer children, more 25-44 year olds among recent immigrants

Figure B.1: Age structure of the recent immigrant and Canadian-born population, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996



The age distribution of the recent immigrant population (those arriving between 1981 and 1996) is markedly different from that of the Canadian-born population, with a larger proportion aged 25 to 44, and proportionally fewer children under 15. In 1996, almost one-half of recent immigrants living in Edmonton (48%) were between the ages of 25 and 44, compared with one-third (34%) of Canadian-born individuals. Children under 15 accounted for just 12 per cent of the recent immigrant population compared with 26 per cent for Canadian-born children.

These differences in age structure result from two factors. The first is age at arrival in Canada. Immigrants tend to arrive in Canada during their prime working-age years. This was the case among immigrants who arrived more than 30 years ago, and it is still the case today. It is therefore not surprising that a large share of recent immigrants were within the 25 to 44 age group at the time of the 1996 census.

The second factor is ageing. Only a small percentage of recent immigrants are children. On average across the country, about 20 per cent of recent immigrants were children under 15 years of age at the time of their arrival in Canada. But by 1996, many of these children had lived in the country for several years, and had since become youths or young adults. Children born in Canada to immigrant parents are not themselves considered immigrants, but are part of the Canadian-born population. Thus, the smaller proportion of children within the recent immigrant population should not be taken as an indication of lower fertility rates among immigrants.

Earlier immigrants, for the same two reasons, tend to be older than recent immigrants and the population born in the country. In the Edmonton area, more than two-thirds of immigrants who arrived prior to 1981 are over 45 years old, compared to 25 per cent of the Canadian-born (not shown in Figure B.1). The reader may want to bear this in mind, since many of the characteristics and circumstances described in this profile vary with age. Differences between groups of immigrants and the Canadian-born may be a reflection of differences in age. Often other factors play a role as well, as will be shown.

Table B.4: Number of women as a proportion of the population, by age group, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996

Age in 1996	Recent Immigrants	Canadian-born
0 to 15	50%	49%
15 to 24	50%	50%
25 to 44	54%	50%
45 to 64	54%	51%
65 and over	59%	57%
All ages	53%	50%
Total number of women	35,700	347,400
Total number of men	31,500	344,200

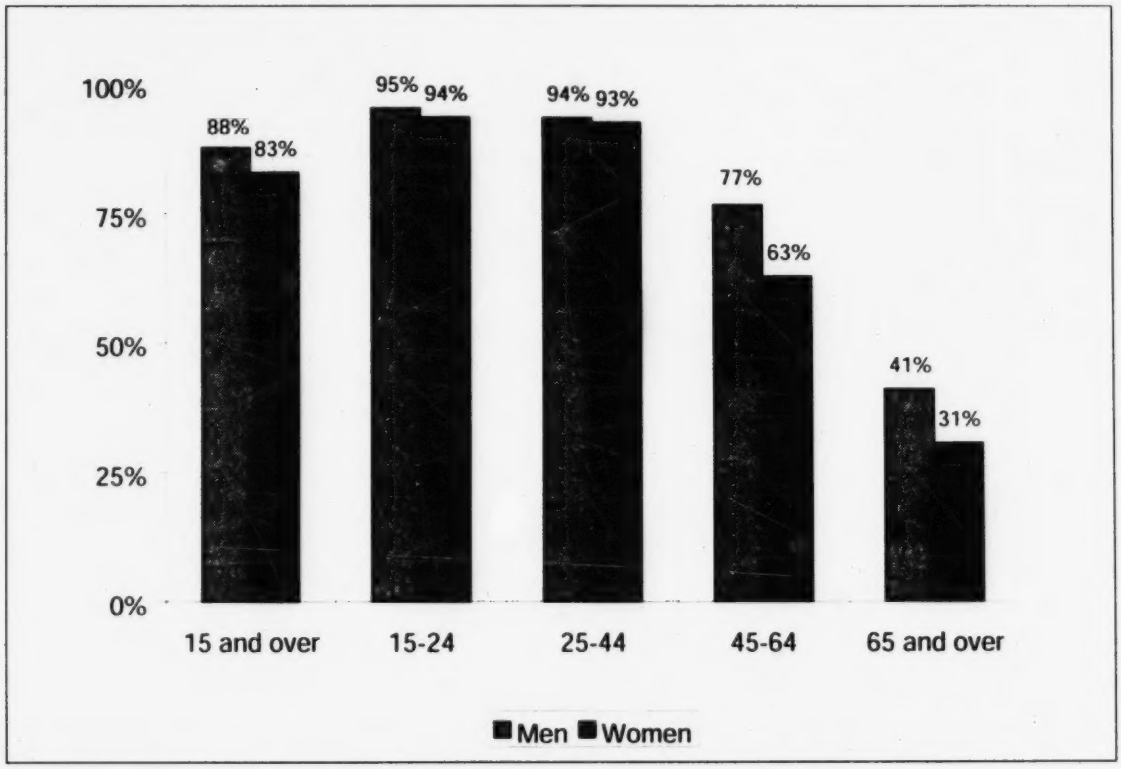
The proportion of women in the recent-immigrant population in Edmonton is higher than that of the Canadian-born population. The number of women is particularly high among recent immigrants from the Philippines (61 per cent are women; there are 1,330 more women than men), the People's Republic of China (55 per cent are women; there are 600 more women than men) and Hong Kong (54 per cent are women; there are 500 more women than men). The proportion of women for recent immigrants from Chile, Jamaica, Ukraine, and the United States is also higher than 55 per cent, and women who recently immigrated from any of these countries outnumber men by more than 100.

As women on average live longer than men, they make up a large share of persons aged 65 years and over. But the higher proportion of women among recent immigrants from the six countries just mentioned is not related to age. For instance, two out of three recent immigrants aged 25 to 44 from the Philippines (65%) are women. Many of these have obtained permanent resident status after a period of employment as live-in caregivers.

At the opposite end of the spectrum of gender mix are Ireland, Bosnia, Guatemala, Iran and Israel. Among recent immigrants from each of these countries men outnumber women by 50 or more, and their share is 60 per cent or more.

Large majority of very recent immigrants speak English or French

Figure B.2: Proportion of men and women aged 15 years and over who immigrated between 1991 and 1996 able to speak English or French, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996



A large majority of Edmonton's immigrants report being able to carry on a conversation in at least one of Canada's two official languages. Even among very recent immigrants of 15 years and over, who arrived in Canada between 1991 and 1996, 85 per cent reported ability to speak an official language. Fifteen per cent of these most recent immigrants could not speak either official language. Of all very recent immigrants of 15 years and over living in Canada, 14 per cent can speak neither English nor French. In Edmonton as elsewhere, knowledge of official languages is more widespread among those who immigrated in earlier periods: 89 per cent of those arriving between 1981 and 1990, and 96 per cent of those arriving before 1981 indicated ability to speak an official language (not shown in Figure B.2).

Most recently immigrated women are somewhat less likely than men to have conversational knowledge of English or French. Among Edmonton's women who immigrated between 1991 and

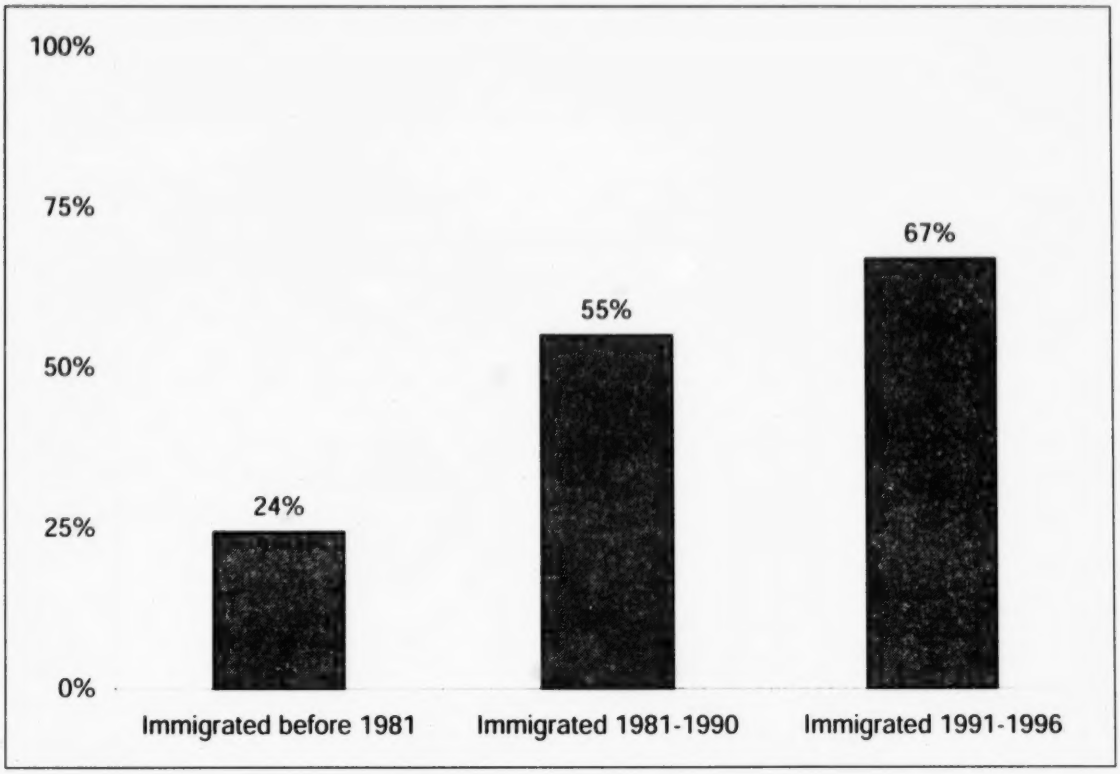
1996, for example, 17 per cent could speak neither English nor French. The comparable figure among men arriving in this period was 12 per cent.

The proportion of Edmonton's immigrants able to carry on a conversation in English or French decreases with age. Among younger immigrants who landed in Canada between 1991 and 1996, almost all are able to speak an official language, and there is little difference between men and women in this regard. Among those between the ages of 25 and 44, a large majority - 94% of men and 93% of women - report ability to speak an official language. Among those aged 45 to 64, however, the percentage that can speak English or French falls sharply, and more so for women than men (77% of men and 63% of women). For both men and women, seniors aged 65 and over are least likely to have conversational ability in English or French (41% of men and 31% of women).

Immigrant women make up the majority of those unable to speak English or French. In Edmonton, for example, there were a total of 3,450 immigrants who had landed in Canada between 1991 and 1996, and who could speak neither official language at the time of the 1996 census. Women accounted for over three-fifths (64%) of this number. A large number of immigrants who are without knowledge of official languages are women aged between 45 and 64. They made up 10 per cent of all immigrants of 15 years of age and over who arrived between 1991 and 1996, but accounted for 25 per cent of those unable to speak English or French.

Two-thirds of very recent immigrants speak a foreign language at home

Figure B.3: Use of a foreign language in the home as a percentage of the number of persons aged 15 and over, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996



For the majority of Edmonton's recent immigrants of 15 years and over the language spoken most often at home is one other than English or French. Two-thirds (67%) of immigrants who landed between 1991 and 1996 most often speak a foreign language within their homes. Of all very recent immigrants of 15 years and over in Canada, the same share (67%) speaks a foreign language at home.

The use of English in the home is considerably higher among those who immigrated in earlier periods. Forty-five per cent of those who immigrated between 1981 and 1990, and 75 per cent of those who immigrated prior to 1981 indicated that English was the language most frequently spoken at home. French is most often spoken at home by less than 1 per cent of these groups.

Level of education similar

Highest level of education refers to the education attained at the time of the census in May 1996. It does not refer to education level upon arrival in Canada. Immigrants may have received additional schooling in Canada after their arrival.

The education level of Edmonton's recent immigrant population is similar to that of Edmonton's Canadian-born population overall, but the proportions with either very high or very low education are higher among recent immigrants. For instance, the proportion holding a university degree is higher for very recent immigrants (22% of men and 19% of women) than for the Canadian-born (14% of men and 13% of women). By contrast, the Canadian-born are more likely than recent immigrants to have a trade or college diploma.

At the opposite end of the spectrum one also finds a larger proportion of recent immigrants than of the Canadian-born. Very few Canadian-born men and women (5%) have less than grade 9, compared with 11 per cent of men and 15 to 17 per cent of women who immigrated after 1980.

Table B.5: Highest level of education, persons aged 15 and over, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996 (percentage distribution)

	Less than grade 9	Some high school	High school diploma	College or trade diploma	University degree	Number of persons
Women						
Canadian-born	5%	30%	24%	28%	13%	259,500
Immigrated before 1981	19%	22%	18%	26%	15%	45,600
Immigrated 1981-1990	17%	21%	22%	25%	15%	19,000
Immigrated 1991-1996	15%	21%	23%	21%	19%	12,900
Men						
Canadian-born	5%	29%	21%	32%	14%	251,500
Immigrated before 1981	13%	17%	13%	37%	19%	45,600
Immigrated 1981-1990	11%	25%	20%	27%	18%	17,500
Immigrated 1991-1996	11%	23%	21%	23%	22%	10,100

Table B.6: Persons with less than high school and persons with more than high school, as a share of the population, by age group, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996

	No high school diploma			With post-secondary diploma or degree		
	25-44	45-64	65 and over	25-44	45-64	65 and over
Women						
Canadian-born	21%	36%	61%	53%	45%	26%
Immigrated before 1981	22%	36%	70%	53%	47%	20%
Immigrated 1981-1990	27%	43%	82%	51%	42%	10%
Immigrated 1991-1996	22%	51%	78%	54%	33%	12%
Men						
Canadian-born	23%	31%	56%	57%	54%	34%
Immigrated before 1981	23%	24%	51%	59%	66%	42%
Immigrated 1981-1990	27%	31%	69%	56%	56%	18%
Immigrated 1991-1996	20%	39%	63%	62%	47%	20%

When education levels are compared by age group, it appears that the younger generation has a much higher level of education, whether born in or outside Canada. For instance, less than one quarter of persons under 45 years born in Canada have not completed high school, compared to more than one-half of seniors. More than one-half of Canadian-born under 45 years of age have a post-secondary diploma or degree (57% of men and 53% of women), compared to one third of men over 65 (34%) and one quarter of women (26%). A similar large shift in educational qualifications is observed among immigrants. Thus, the level of education of immigrants differs far more by age than by period of immigration.

Recent immigrants under 45 years of age appear to have about the same level of education as the Canadian-born. Older recent immigrants do not, however. For instance, one-third (33%) of women aged 45 to 64 who landed after 1991 have a post-secondary diploma or degree, compared to 45 per cent of the Canadian-born.

Canada is a world leader with respect to educational attainment of the population. This makes it unlikely for immigrants as a group to have the same or higher educational qualifications as persons born in Canada, in particular since education and skills play a role in the selection of only a certain proportion of immigrants.

Recent immigrants add to Edmonton's pool of scientists and engineers

Major field of study refers to the predominant area of learning or training of a person's highest post-secondary diploma or degree. Ten major areas of study have been grouped in Table B.7 as follows:

(1) Physical sciences, engineering and trades:
- Engineering and applied science technologies and trades
- Engineering and applied sciences
- Mathematics and physical sciences
- Agricultural and biological sciences/technologies

(2) Social sciences, education, and arts
- Social sciences and related fields
- Educational, recreational and counselling services
- Humanities and related fields
- Fine and applied arts

(3) Commerce, management and business administration

(4) Health professions, sciences and technologies

The data pertain only to persons who have a post-secondary - trade or college - certificate or diploma or a university degree.

The majority of men who immigrated after 1980 and have a post-secondary diploma or degree majored in physical sciences, engineering or trades (63%). This is a somewhat larger share than among Canadian-born men (60%). Among women with a post-secondary diploma or degree, one in five recent immigrants (22%) have studied some physical science or technology, compared to one in ten Canadian-born women (11%).

By contrast, recent immigrants are represented in smaller proportions than the Canadian-born in the social sciences, education and arts. Thirty-eight per cent of Canadian-born women have diplomas or degrees in these fields, compared to 32 per cent of recent immigrants. For men, the share of diplomas and degrees in the social fields of studies is over one-fifth for the Canadian-born (21%) and one-sixth for recent immigrants (16%). Twenty-seven per cent of recent immigrant women studied commerce, management and business administration for their post-secondary diploma or degree. A somewhat higher proportion of Canadian-born women chose this field (30%).

Table B.7: Number of persons by major field of study, as a percentage of all persons with a post-secondary diploma or degree, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996

	Canadian-born	Immigrated 1981 - 1996
Women		
Physical sciences, engineering and trades	11%	22%
Social sciences, education, and arts	38%	32%
Commerce, management and business administration	30%	27%
Health professions, sciences and technologies	21%	19%
Number of persons with post-secondary diploma or degree	107,500	12,700
Men		
Physical sciences, engineering and trades	60%	63%
Social sciences, education, and arts	21%	16%
Commerce, management and business administration	14%	13%
Health professions, sciences and technologies	4%	7%
Number of persons with post-secondary diploma or degree	114,300	12,300

Recent immigrants more likely to attend school

School attendance refers to either part-time or full-time attendance at school, college or university during the eight-month period between September 1995 and May 14, 1996. Attendance is counted only for courses which could be used as credits towards a certificate, diploma or degree.

Immigrants between 25 and 64 years of age who landed in the last five years before the 1996 census are more likely than pre-1980 immigrants and the Canadian-born to be attending school. Among women between 25 and 44 years of age, for example, 26 per cent of these most recent immigrants were attending school compared with 14 per cent of the Canadian-born.

Among young adults, the share attending school is also higher for recent immigrants than for persons born in Canada. Persons aged 15 to 19 years, who have a higher rate of school attendance than those between 20 and 24 years, make up a smaller share of recent immigrants than of the Canadian-born (not shown in Table B.8). Thus, the higher rate of school attendance among young recent immigrants is not a result of differences in age structure but reflects different behaviour.

The proportion of adult recent immigrants attending school is highest among those who already have a post-secondary degree or diploma (not shown). Recent immigrants with foreign diplomas or degrees may be attending school full-time or part-time to obtain an equivalent Canadian diploma or degree, or to prepare for tests they need to pass to have their credentials recognised in Canada.

Table B.8: Persons attending school as a percentage of all persons in an age group, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996

	15-24	25-44	45-64
Women			
Canadian-born	62%	14%	5%
Immigrated before 1981	70%	13%	6%
Immigrated 1981-1990	76%	16%	9%
Immigrated 1991-1996	65%	26%	14%
Men			
Canadian-born	61%	12%	3%
Immigrated before 1981	60%	11%	4%
Immigrated 1981-1990	71%	14%	8%
Immigrated 1991-1996	71%	26%	14%

PART C: FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS

Family and household affiliation of individuals

More than nine in ten recent immigrants live with relatives

Table C.1: Living arrangements, by age, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996 (percentage distribution)

	Canadian-born	Immigrated before 1981	Immigrated 1981-1990	Immigrated 1991-1996
All Ages (including 0-15)				
Living alone	9%	13%	5%	4%
Living with non-relatives only	4%	2%	3%	4%
Living with relatives	87%	85%	92%	93%
15-24				
Living alone	5%	4%	2%	2%
Living with non-relatives only	9%	6%	5%	5%
Living with relatives	86%	89%	93%	93%
25-44				
Living alone	11%	6%	5%	6%
Living with non-relatives only	6%	4%	3%	5%
Living with relatives	83%	90%	91%	90%
45-64				
Living alone	13%	9%	6%	4%
Living with non-relatives only	3%	2%	2%	2%
Living with relatives	84%	90%	93%	94%
65 and over				
Living alone	30%	28%	14%	6%
Living with non-relatives only	2%	2%	1%	2%
Living with relatives	68%	71%	85%	92%

Very few recent immigrants live alone. Like the Canadian born population, a large majority of recent immigrants live in households with at least two people, and in most cases, these are people with whom they are related by blood, marriage, or adoption. In fact, recent immigrants are more likely than the Canadian-born population to live with relatives. This is true for all age groups, but is most notable among people aged 65 and over. Among Canadian-born seniors in Edmonton, two-thirds live with relatives, while most of the other one-third (30%) live alone. By comparison, about nine out of ten very recent immigrants aged 65 and over live with relatives (92 %), and one in sixteen lives alone (6%).

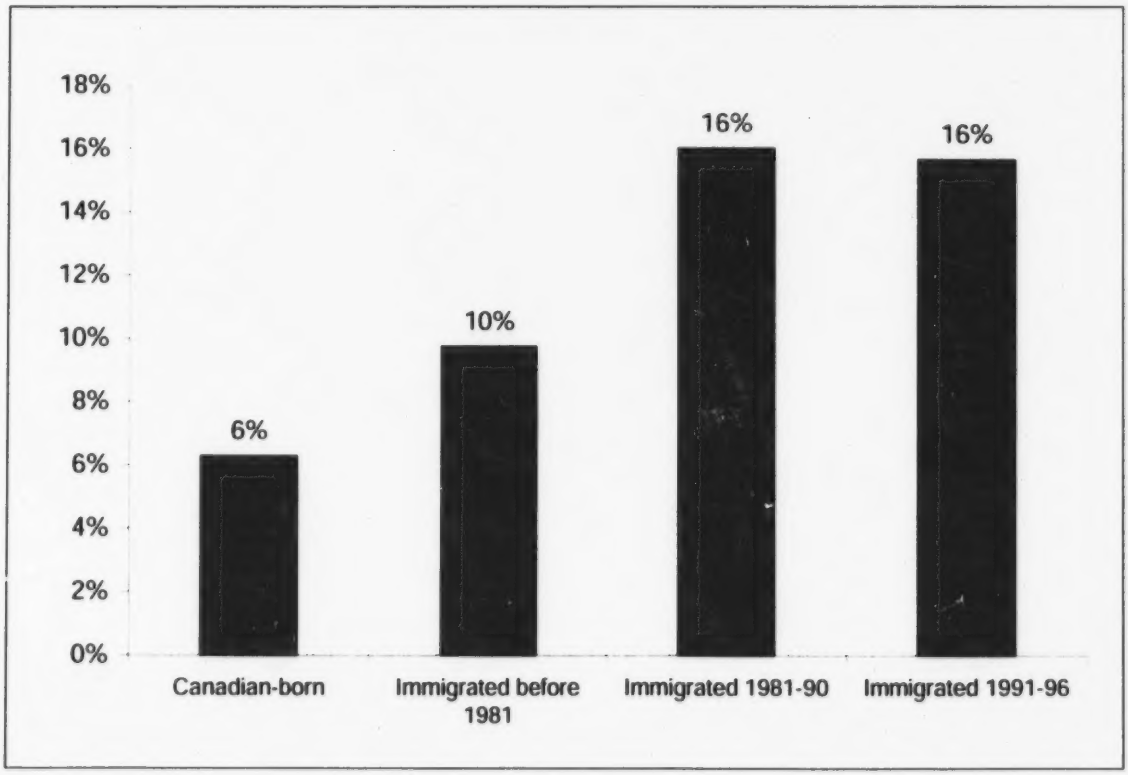
Recent immigrants more likely to live in extended families

Living arrangements refer to the composition of the household a person belongs to. Living arrangements can be simple, as in the case of the "nuclear family" household (defined as a lone parent living with never-married children, or a husband-wife family with or without never-married children living at home) or they can be more complex, and include other relatives such as aunts, uncles, grandparents, and so on. In this section, the latter situation is called an "extended family" arrangement. As an illustration, a couple with two never-married children would be considered a nuclear family. If the children's grandparents were living in the household, all members of the household would be living in an extended family arrangement.

Whereas Table C.1 includes all persons, Figure C.1 and Table C.2 include only persons who are living with relatives. A small percentage of individuals living with relatives are in "non-family" households. An example might be two adult brothers living together. The percentage of individuals in these situations is not shown in the table and figure in this section. Consequently, the percentages in Table C.2 do not add to 100%.

Recent immigrants are similar to Canadian-born individuals in that most live in nuclear families, with no relatives other than the immediate members of the nuclear family. But unlike the Canadian-born population, recent immigrants are also fairly likely to live in extended family situations. Of the Canadian-born population living with one or more relatives, only 6 per cent are part of an extended-family living arrangement. The proportion of recent immigrants in that kind of arrangement is more than twice as large, one in six (16%).

Figure C.1: Persons living in an extended family as a percentage of the population living with relatives, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996



Extended family living arrangements are most common among older recent immigrants. Thirty-six per cent of the most recent immigrants aged 65 and over live in extended families, compared with eight per cent of Canadian-born seniors. Older recent immigrants living in extended families are most often related to someone within a nuclear family, and are not members of the nuclear family itself. This suggests that many of these seniors are recently immigrated parents who live with the family of their child who had come to Canada previously.

Table C.2: Persons living in nuclear and extended families as a percentage of the population living with relatives, by age group, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996

	Canadian-born	Immigrated before 1981	Immigrated 1981-1990	Immigrated 1991-1996
All ages				
% in nuclear family (no other relative)	92%	88%	83%	82%
% in extended families	6%	10%	16%	16%
Under 15				
% in nuclear family (no other relative)	93%	n.a.	91%	88%
% in extended families	7%	n.a.	9%	11%
15-24				
% in nuclear family (no other relative)	90%	84%	83%	78%
% in extended families	7%	12%	14%	17%
25-44				
% in nuclear family (no other relative)	93%	88%	84%	83%
% in extended families	5%	10%	15%	14%
45-64				
% in nuclear family (no other relative)	93%	91%	82%	84%
% in extended families	6%	8%	16%	14%
65 and over				
% in nuclear family (no other relative)	88%	84%	64%	62%
% in extended families	8%	12%	35%	36%

Families

25,000 recent immigrant families in Edmonton Metropolitan Area

Defining "Recent immigrant family"
Immigrant status is a characteristic of individuals. But in this section, focus shifts to an examination of the families in which recent immigrants reside. The term "recent immigrant family" refers to either a lone-parent family in which the parent is a recent immigrant, or a husband-wife family in which either (or both) spouses are recent immigrants.

The large majority of recent immigrants are members of recent immigrant families; some live alone or in non-family households. Most recently immigrated never-married children are also members of such families – the children having immigrated with their parents or parent – but some are members of earlier immigrant families (if parents immigrated before 1981 and the children followed later) or Canadian-born families (if the children were adopted, for instance).

Some recent immigrant families came to Canada as married couples, while others formed conjugal unions after arrival. Because the census only asks people to report marital status at the time of the census, it is not known if people married before or after coming to Canada. Similarly, it is not possible to determine whether recent immigrants became lone-parents before or after arrival in Canada.

Defining "Canadian-born family"
"Canadian-born families" are families in which the lone parent or both spouses were born in Canada.

Defining 'Age of family"
Age of family is determined by the age of the oldest member, i.e. the age of the lone parent or older of the spouses.

In Edmonton in 1996, there were 67,200 recent immigrants who arrived in Canada between 1981 and 1996 (see Table A.3). A large majority of these immigrants – 57,900 or 86 per cent – were members of a nuclear family. In other words, they were husbands, wives, common-law partners, lone parents, or never-married children. Almost all these recent immigrants lived in 24,800 recent immigrant families, i.e. families in which either or both spouses or the lone parent are recent immigrants. One in ten families in Edmonton (11%) are recent immigrant families (not shown in Table C.3).

Most of the recent immigrant families (90%) consist of married or common-law couples, while 10 per cent are lone-parent families. The proportion of families with couples is higher than among Canadian-born families. Seventeen per cent of Canadian-born families are lone parent families, and 83 per cent are married or common-law couples.

When families are grouped by the age of the oldest member, it appears that the proportion of lone-parent families is especially low among young families of recent immigrants (9%). The proportion of lone parent families declines with age among the Canadian-born families, whereas among recent immigrant families it increases with age.

Table C.3: Family structure, by age of oldest spouse or lone parent, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996 (percentage distribution)

	Canadian-born families	Recent immigrant families
All families (including ages 15-24)		
couples with or without children	83%	90%
lone parents	17%	10%
total number	159,300	24,800
25-44		
couples with or without children	81%	91%
lone parents	19%	9%
total number	84,600	15,200
45-64		
couples with or without children	86%	89%
lone parents	14%	11%
total number	51,300	6,900
65 and over		
couples with or without children	89%	86%
lone parents	11%	14%
total number	17,800	2,200

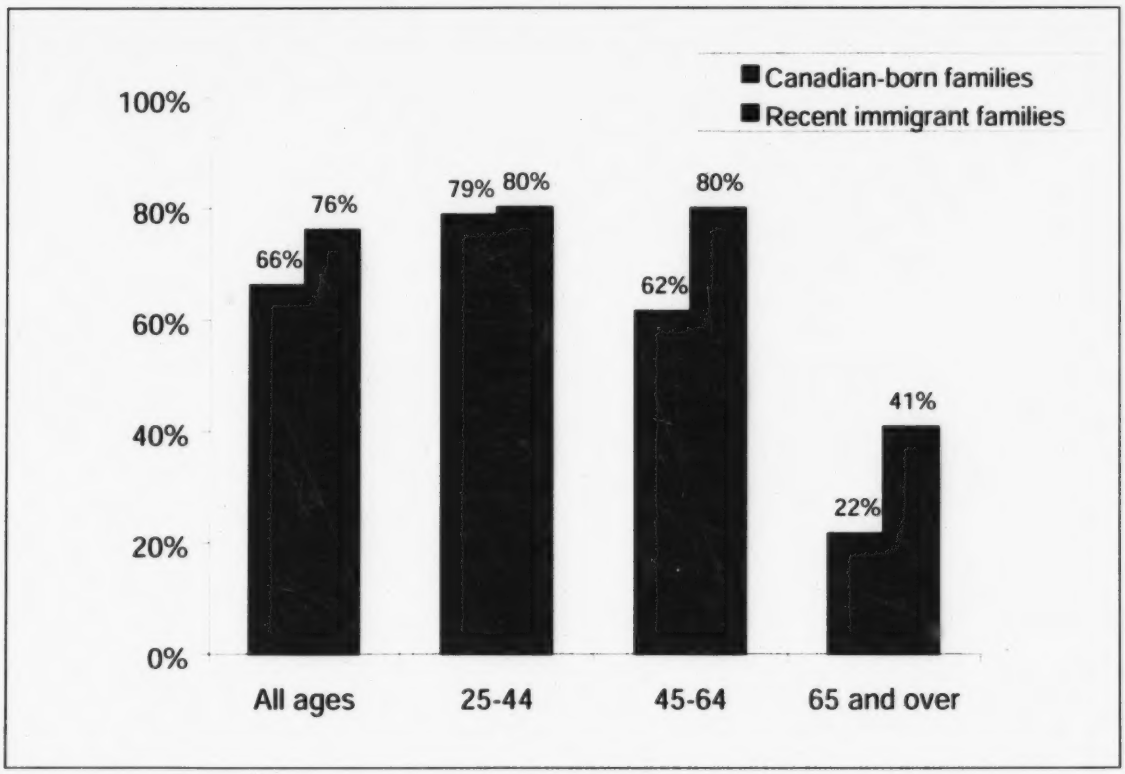
Recent immigrant families more likely to have children in the home

A striking difference between recent immigrant and Canadian-born families is in the proportion of families with never-married children at home. Three out of four recent immigrant families (76%) have at least one never-married child of any age living at home. By comparison, two out of three Canadian-born families (66%) have children at home.

This difference occurs mainly among older families, when age of family is defined as the age of the oldest member of the family. Among young families, 80 per cent of recent-immigrant families have children at home, compared to 79 per cent of Canadian-born families. Four in ten recent-immigrant families of seniors (41%) have children in the home, compared to only two in ten Canadian-born families (22%).

The higher proportion of older recent immigrant families with children living at home could be due to a number of factors, including a greater likelihood that older children will stay longer in the parental home, as well as possible differences in the timing of childbirth and level of fertility. Some of the children in older immigrant families may be adults living with and possibly supporting one or two ageing parents.

Figure C.2: Families with never-married children living at home, as a percentage of all families, by age of family, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996



Older recent immigrant families have more children living at home

Whereas Table C.3 and Figure C.2 give information about all families, Table C.4 describes families with children only. Figure C.2 gives the number of families with children living at home as a percentage of all families, and Table C.4 subdivides families with children by the number of children. Thus, the percentages shown in Table C.4 add to 100, except for small discrepancies due to rounding.

Recent immigrant families with children are slightly more likely to have more than two children in the home than Canadian-born families with children. Twenty-two per cent of recent immigrant families with children have three or more children, compared to 19 per cent of Canadian-born families.

Contrary to this overall pattern, younger recent immigrant families are more likely than Canadian-born families to have one child, and less likely to have two, three or more children living in the home. However, one-quarter of recent immigrant families whose older spouse or lone parent is 45 to 64 years old have more than two children (26%), compared to 14 per cent of Canadian-born families. And among the oldest recent immigrant families, 14 per cent have three or more children living at home, compared to only two per cent of Canadian-born families.

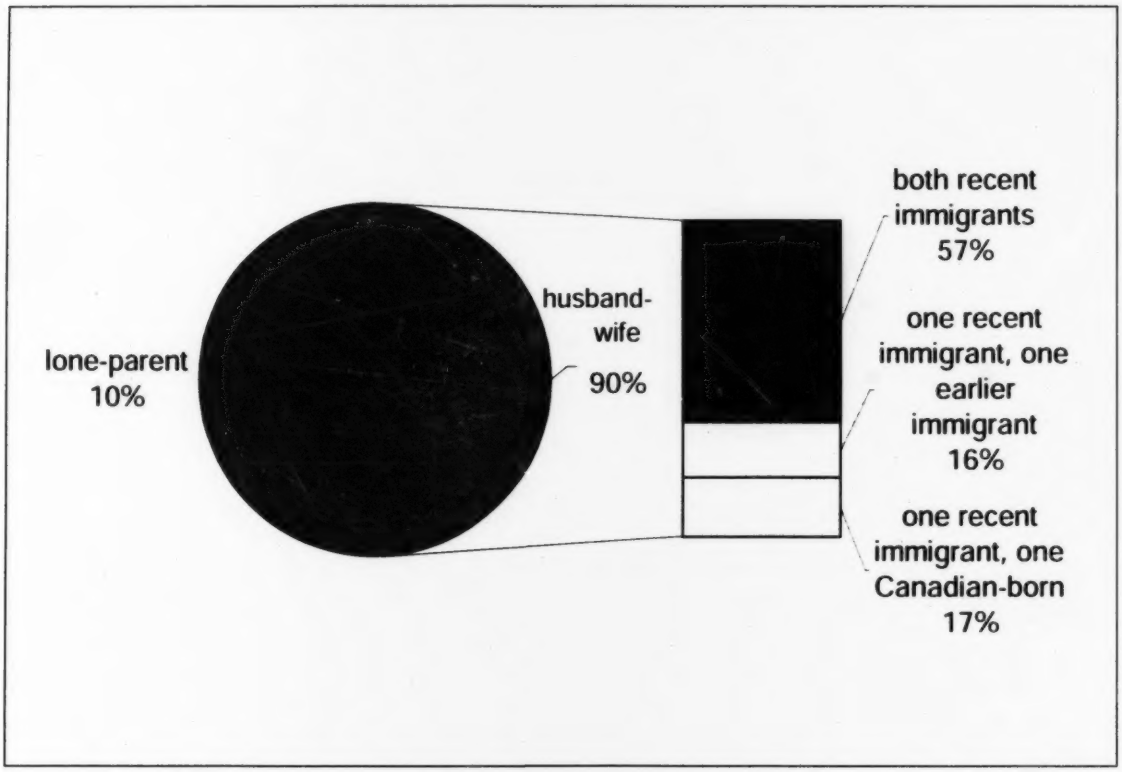
Table C.4: Families with never-married children living at home, by number of children and age of family, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996 (percentage distribution)

	Canadian-born families	Recent-immigrant families
All ages (including ages 15-24)		
One child	39%	37%
Two children	41%	40%
Three or more children	19%	22%
25-44		
One child	31%	36%
Two children	46%	43%
Three or more children	24%	22%
45-64		
One child	48%	36%
Two children	38%	38%
Three or more children	14%	26%
65 and over		
One child	87%	62%
Two children	11%	24%
Three or more children	2%	14%

Majority of recent immigrants married to other recent immigrants

The majority of the 24,800 recent immigrant families (57%) are comprised of a recently immigrated husband married to or living common-law with a recently immigrated wife, with or without children. An additional 16 per cent of families have a recently immigrated spouse and a spouse who immigrated earlier, before 1981. A similar share of families (17%) has a recent immigrant paired with a Canadian-born spouse.

Figure C.3: Recent immigrant families by type, showing immigrant status of spouses, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996



Of the families of immigrants who landed before 1981, four in ten consist of an immigrant paired with a Canadian-born spouse (41%). This proportion is 2 1/2 times as large as that of recent immigrants.

When recent immigrants enter into conjugal unions, they are very likely to do so as a legally married couple. Just one out of every twenty recent-immigrant couples live common-law (5%), compared with 13 per cent of Canadian-born couples. Even among younger couples, where common-law is the clear preference of the Canadian born, relatively few recent immigrant couples have chosen this option.

The low incidence of common-law relationships is in part a result of immigration laws, which do not recognise common-law relationships. Common-law partners have to be admitted separately as individuals, whereas a marital couple may enter as a unit. Differences in attitudes towards common-law relationships may also play a role.

Table C.5: Couples in common-law relationships as a proportion of all husband-wife couples, by age of older partner, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996

	Canadian-born families	Recent immigrant families
All ages	13%	5%
15-24	62%	36%
25-44	17%	6%
45-64	8%	3%
65 and over	2%	1%

Households

29,000 recent immigrant households in Edmonton Metropolitan Area

Defining "Recent immigrant household"
A household is a group of persons sharing living accommodation. In a recent immigrant household, one or more of the members aged 15 years or over is a recent immigrant, having immigrated to Canada between 1981 and 1996. All recent immigrants of 15 years or over are members of recent immigrant households.

Recent immigrant households are subdivided by period of landing in the same way as individuals. A household with one or more persons over 15 years of age who immigrated during 1991-1996 is a 1990s immigrant household. If all persons of 15 and over immigrated during 1991-1996, the household is called a "1990s immigrants only" household. If there are members of 15 and over who belong to other groups, the household is called "1990s immigrants with others". The "others" are immigrants who landed before 1991 or Canadian-born persons or both. A 1980s immigrant household includes at least one person who immigrated during the 1980s, and no persons who immigrated during 1991-1996.

Defining 'Canadian-born household"
A Canadian-born household is a household in which all members aged 15 years or over were born in Canada.

Defining "Earlier immigrant household"
An earlier immigrant household includes one or more persons who immigrated in or before 1980 and does not include any persons who immigrated after 1980.

Together, these three groups include all households, as households consisting entirely of non-permanent residents are not considered here. The recent immigrant family concept is the most encompassing of the three, and the Canadian-born household the narrowest. Many earlier immigrant households (more than half of such households in Edmonton) include Canadian-born persons, including children born in Canada who have passed the age of 14.

Table C.6: Households by immigrant status of members of 15 years and over, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996

	Number of households	Share of all households
Canadian-born households	232,100	73%
Earlier immigrant households	57,600	18%
Recent immigrant households	29,200	9%
of which:		
1980s immigrants	17,000	*5.3%*
1990s immigrants with others	6,200	*1.9%*
with Canadian-born	*1,600*	*0.5%*
with other immigrants	*4,100*	*1.3%*
with Canadian-born and other immigrants	*450*	*0.1%*
1990s immigrants only	6,000	*1.9%*
Total	318,900	100%

In Edmonton in 1996, there were 29,200 recent-immigrant households - households in which at least one member of 15 years or older was a recent immigrant. These made up 9 per cent of the total number of households in Edmonton.

Four in ten recent immigrant households (12,200) have at least one member who immigrated during the 1990s. In one-half of these households (6,000) all members are very recent immigrants. But it is also quite common for very recent immigrants to live together with immigrants who landed before 1991, with Canadian-born persons, or with both (6,200 households).

Three quarters of households in Edmonton (73%) comprise only Canadian-born persons. The remaining 18 per cent of all households include one or more earlier immigrants but no recent immigrants. More than one-half of these earlier immigrant households also include persons born in Canada, often children born after immigration.

Recent immigrant households more likely to be larger than a nuclear family

The majority of households consist of families. Families may live alone (nuclear family households), with other families (multiple family households), or with non-family persons which may or may not be relatives (expanded-family households). All other households are non-family households consisting of one or more persons who may be related by blood or not.

A recent immigrant household is much more likely than a Canadian-born household to consist of one or more families. More than four out of five recent immigrant households (84%) are family households, compared to 68 per cent of Canadian-born households.

One in three Canadian-born households is a non-family households, and most of these consist of a person living alone (27% of households). Among recent immigrant households, persons living alone are relatively rare (10%).

Most households consist of a nuclear family, i.e. a couple with or without children, or a lone parent with one or more children living together. Immigrant households, except for households of very recent immigrants with others are somewhat more likely to consist of just a nuclear family than Canadian-born households.

A significant proportion of recent immigrant households consists of a nuclear family living with other persons (13%). In most of these "expanded-family" households the non-family person or persons are related to the family. Expanded-family households are not unknown among Canadian-born, but they occur much less frequently.

Households of recent immigrants are also much more likely than Canadian-born households to consist of two or more families. These families may be related to each other, as for example a married couple living with the family of one of their children. Multiple family households are most common among households combining very recent immigrants with other Canadians. On the other hand, households of earlier immigrants and Canadian-born persons are not likely to consist of two or more families. Many new immigrants clearly live in households that are different from the standard nuclear family.

Table C.7: Household structure, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996 (percentage distribution)

Households	Family households				Non-family households		Number of households
	All family households	Nuclear families	Expanded families	Multiple families	Single person	Multiple persons	
Canadian-born	68%	62%	5%	1%	27%	6%	232,100
Earlier immigrants	76%	69%	6%	1%	20%	4%	57,600
Recent immigrants	84%	65%	13%	7%	10%	5%	29,200
1980s immigrants	84%	*69%*	*11%*	*4%*	12%	4%	17,000
1990s immigrants with others	93%	*52%*	*21%*	*19%*	0%	7%	6,200
1990s immigrants only	77%	*66%*	*8%*	*4%*	17%	6%	6,000
All households	71%	64%	6%	1%	24%	5%	318,900

Recent immigrant households tend to be large

Table C.8: Size of households, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996 (percentage distribution)

Households	Number of persons in household			Estimated size
	1 to 3	4 or 5	6 or more	
Canadian-born	74%	23%	3%	2.6
Earlier immigrants	71%	26%	3%	2.8
Recent immigrants	52%	36%	12%	3.6
1980s immigrants	*51%*	*40%*	*10%*	*3.5*
1990s immigrants with others	*48%*	*31%*	*21%*	*4.1*
1990s immigrants only	*59%*	*31%*	*9%*	*3.3*
All households	71%	25%	4%	2.7

Size is estimated assuming an average of 4.5 for households with 4 or 5 members and 7 for households with 6 or more members. For sizes 1 to 3 the actual number of households with each size was used in the calculation.

Recent immigrant households are more likely to be large in size than Canadian-born and earlier immigrant households. One of every two recent immigrant households (52%) has one to three members, compared to three out of four Canadian-born households (74%). Thus, the proportion of households with four or more members is almost twice as large (48%) among recent immigrant households as among Canadian-born households (26%).

Most of the larger recent immigrant households have four or five members. Households where very recent immigrants live together with other Canadians are most likely of all households to be very large. One in five such households have six or more members. The share of very large households among Canadian-born households is only three per cent.

Table C.9: Proportion of persons spending time on unpaid care of children and elders, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996

	Care of children	Care of elders
Women		
Canadian-born	44%	19%
Immigrated before 1981	39%	20%
Immigrated 1981-1990	54%	17%
Immigrated 1991-1996	47%	14%
Men		
Canadian-born	35%	14%
Immigrated before 1981	34%	16%
Immigrated 1981-1990	43%	13%
Immigrated 1991-1996	41%	12%

The proportion of recent immigrants of 15 years or over reporting time spent on unpaid care of children is higher than the proportion of Canadian-born persons. On the other hand, the share of recent immigrants spending time on a regular basis to look after elder persons is slightly lower than the share of Canadian-born persons.

These numbers reflect differences in family and household structure. Families with children are more numerous among recent immigrants. The incidence of care of elders is lower among recent immigrants, even though extended families are more common. This suggests that recent immigrants have other reasons than care of elders for living in households larger than a nuclear family.

PART D: PARTICIPATION IN THE ECONOMY

Participation in the labour market

Labour force participation lower but increasing with length of stay

A person is in the labour force if he or she is employed or actively looking for work. Persons not in the labour force may be attending school, raising children, in retirement, or they may be unable or unwilling to seek employment for other reasons.

The rate of labour force participation varies by age and gender. Thus, differences in labour force participation between immigrants and the Canadian-born may be a result of differences in age-gender composition. As well, immigrants and the Canadian-born may show similar behaviour in some age-gender groups, and different behaviour in other groups. For both these reasons it is of interest to examine labour force participation by age and gender.

Table D.1: Labour force participation rates of persons aged 15 to 64 by age and gender, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996

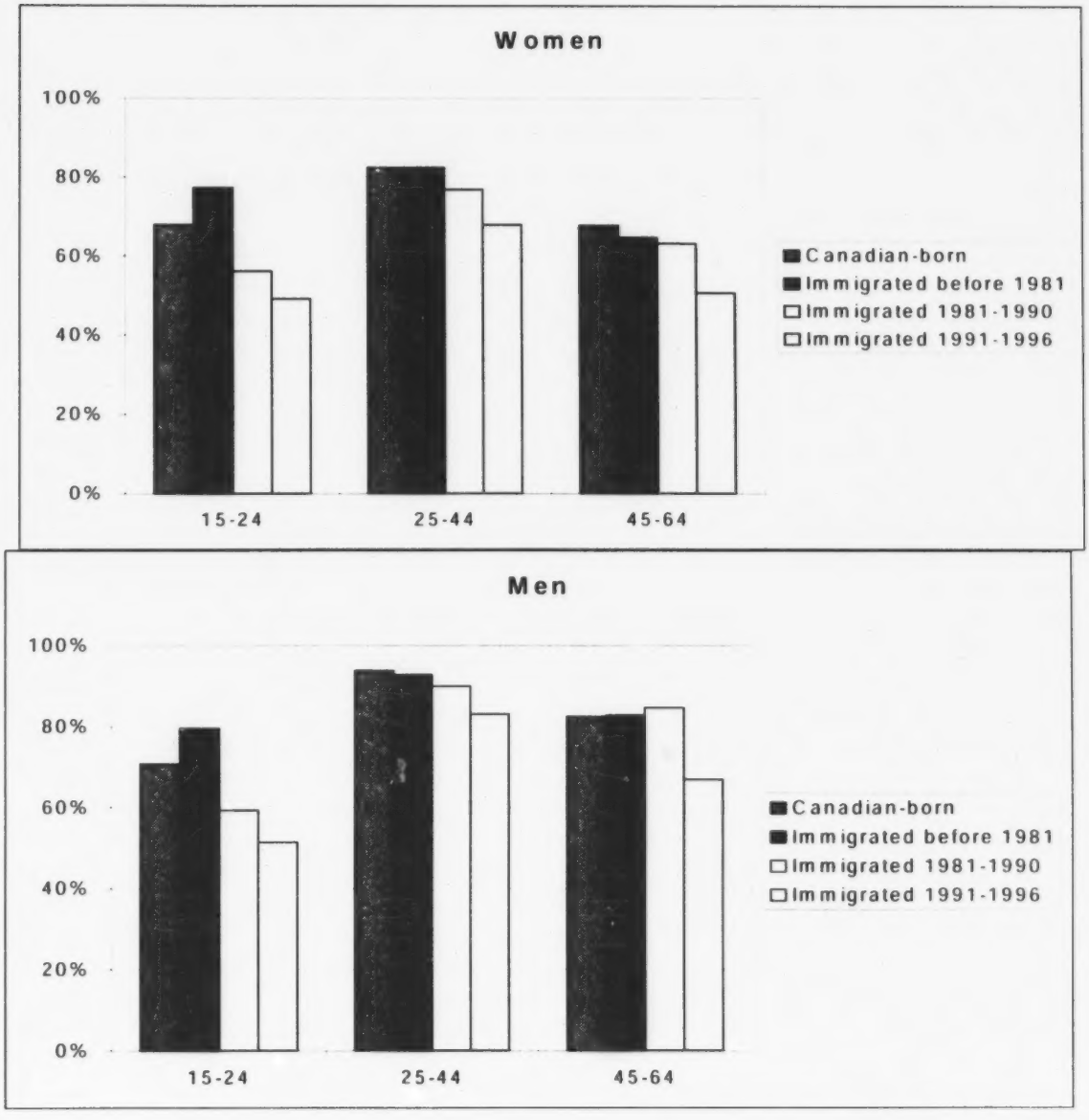
	15-24	25-44	45-64	15-64	Labour Force
Women					
Canadian-born	68%	82%	68%	75%	173,500
Immigrated before 1981	77%	82%	65%	72%	24,000
Immigrated 1981-1990	56%	77%	63%	70%	11,900
Immigrated 1991-1996	49%	68%	51%	60%	7,200
Men					
Canadian-born	71%	94%	82%	86%	196,700
Immigrated before 1981	80%	93%	83%	86%	30,300
Immigrated 1981-1990	59%	90%	85%	82%	13,200
Immigrated 1991-1996	51%	83%	67%	73%	6,900

In the first few years after landing, immigrants participate in the labour market at lower rates than the Canadian-born, but over time the rates become quite similar. This pattern is evident in all three age groups, for both men and women.

The differences in labour force participation rates between the most recent immigrants and the Canadian-born are between 11 and 20 percentage points depending on the age group, and the differences are similar for both genders. Men aged 45 to 64 who immigrated between 5 and 15 years prior to 1996 participate at a higher rate (85%) than the Canadian-born (82%), evidence of rapid adjustment.

The labour force participation rates of immigrant men converge fully to those of the Canadian-born over time, and so do the participation rates of women under 45 years of age. Young persons who immigrated before 1981 are more active in the labour market than the Canadian-born of the same age. This is a very small group, accounting for only a few per cent of earlier immigrants.

Figure D.1: Labour force participation rates by age and gender, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996



Pattern of adjustment similar for most levels of education

Just as labour force participation varies by age and gender, so it also varies by level of education. To better understand the reasons for differences between immigrants and the Canadian-born, participation rates are shown for different levels of education. Level of education is as reported by respondents, and pertains to the time of the census.

Table D.2: Labour force participation rates of persons 15 to 64 years old, by level of education and gender, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996

	Less than grade 9	Some high school	High school diploma	College or trade diploma	University degree	Total
Women						
Canadian-born	36%	60%	80%	84%	87%	75%
Immigrated before 1981	43%	61%	74%	80%	85%	72%
Immigrated 1981-1990	51%	57%	70%	80%	84%	70%
Immigrated 1991-1996	41%	45%	57%	76%	75%	60%
Men						
Canadian-born	63%	73%	90%	93%	93%	86%
Immigrated before 1981	67%	83%	87%	88%	91%	86%
Immigrated 1981-1990	79%	69%	79%	91%	93%	82%
Immigrated 1991-1996	65%	57%	68%	84%	84%	73%

Generally speaking, if persons are ranked by level of education, the higher the level of education the greater the proportion of people who participate in the labour market. This observation holds for the Canadian-born as well as for all three groups of immigrants, with only minor exceptions. Among recently immigrated men with only elementary schooling a high proportion is employed or looking for work.

Except for men and women with only elementary education, recent immigrants participate in the labour market at a lower rate than the Canadian-born with the same education. For instance, women who immigrated in the 1980s and have high school diploma have a participation rate of 70 per cent, whereas their Canadian-born counterparts have a rate of 80 per cent.

Over time, the behaviour of immigrants converges to that of Canadian-born persons. Immigrants who have been in the country for more than five years participate in the labour market in higher proportions than those who landed more recently.

For recent and earlier immigrants with elementary schooling a different pattern is evident. They participate in the labour market at a higher rate than the Canadian-born with the same education. So do earlier immigrants who attended high school but did not obtain a diploma.

Figure D.2: Labour force participation rates of persons 15 to 64 years old, by level of education and gender, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996

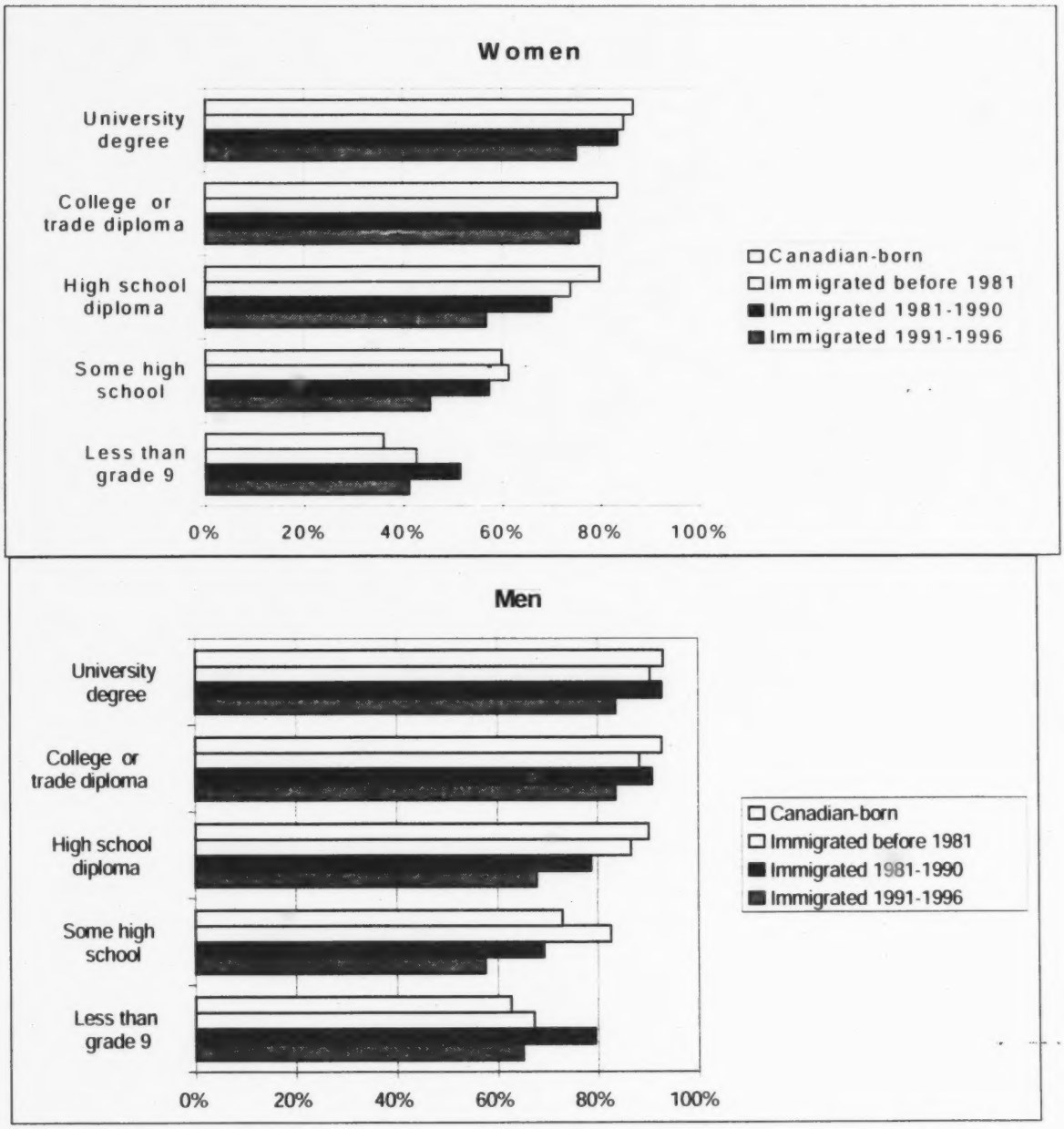


Table D.3: Labour force participation and knowledge of English of persons 15 to 64 years old, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996

	Population share with no English	Labour force participation rate		
		No English	English	Total
Women				
Canadian-born	n.a.	n.a.	75%	75%
Immigrated before 1981	3%	42%	73%	72%
Immigrated 1981-1990	8%	42%	72%	70%
Immigrated 1991-1996	13%	46%	63%	60%
Men				
Canadian-born	n.a.	n.a.	86%	86%
Immigrated before 1981	1%	63%	86%	86%
Immigrated 1981-1990	5%	71%	83%	82%
Immigrated 1991-1996	9%	63%	74%	73%

Most immigrants can converse in either English or French when they immigrate to Canada. As reported at the time of the 1996 census, the large majority of both men and women who immigrated during the 1990s and settled in Edmonton speak English. Those that do not speak English are not nearly as active in the labour market as those who do. It is hardly surprising that knowledge of English is strongly associated with labour market behaviour. The effect – measured by the difference between the second and third column in the table - is larger for earlier than for recent immigrants, and it is stronger for women than for men.

Labour force participation rates of immigrants are lower than they would be if all immigrants had command of English – as measured by the difference between the third and fourth column in the table. For the most recent immigrants, lack of English reduces the labour force participation rate by 3 per cent in the case of women (60% compared to 63%) and by 1 per cent for men (73% compared to 74%). Thus, lack of knowledge of English accounts for a small but definite part of the difference between the most recent immigrants and the Canadian-born.

Most immigrants who do not speak English at the time of immigration learn the language after arrival. Thus, lack of knowledge of English becomes less important as a barrier to labour force entry with prolonged stay in Canada. It remains a very high hurdle, but it affects fewer people.

Many factors may contribute to differences in labour force participation, and readers should not attribute differences only to the factor examined in any of the tables or charts. For instance, if many immigrants who do not speak English also have a below-average education, low labour force participation may be a result of low education rather than lack of English. To give another example, if lack of knowledge of English is highly associated with relatively high age (as may be the case with persons who immigrate after age 50 from non-English-speaking countries), then it may have only a small effect on labour force participation, because a number of these persons would not enter the labour market even if they did speak English. However, Table D.3 conveys an impression that is supported by further analysis. When education, age and gender, and knowledge of English were considered jointly, it was found that lack of knowledge of English has a clear, separate effect on participation rates that is close to the effect shown in the table.

Unemployment not uncommon during initial years

Like labour force participation, unemployment varies by age and gender, and also by level of education. Knowledge of English also has some effect. In this section, each of these aspects is examined in turn as the unemployment experience of immigrants and persons born in Canada is compared. Readers are reminded that differences in unemployment between groups may be related to a number of factors, and not only the one shown in a particular table.

Table D.4: Unemployment rates of persons aged 15 to 64 by age and gender, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996

	15-24	25-44	45-64	15-64	Unemployed
Women					
Canadian-born	14%	7%	6%	8%	13,700
Immigrated before 1981	13%	7%	6%	7%	1,600
Immigrated 1981-1990	18%	7%	10%	9%	1,100
Immigrated 1991-1996	18%	11%	20%	14%	1,000
Men					
Canadian-born	15%	7%	6%	8%	16,500
Immigrated before 1981	18%	6%	7%	7%	2,200
Immigrated 1981-1990	21%	7%	11%	10%	1,300
Immigrated 1991-1996	12%	10%	18%	11%	800

Immigrants are more likely to experience unemployment during their initial years in Canada than those who have been in the country for a longer period of time. For instance, males who landed in the 1990s and are living in Edmonton experience unemployment rates from 10 to 18 per cent, depending on their age group, and females experience rates of 11 to 20 per cent. Unemployment is significantly lower among persons who immigrated during the 1980s, except among young men.

This suggests that one or more spells of unemployment may be a fairly common experience for immigrants during their initial years in Canada. This particularly so during the first five years, when immigrants may not yet have secured steady jobs.

Table D.5: Unemployment rates by level of education, ages 15 to 64, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996

	Less than grade 9	Some high school	High school diploma	College or trade diploma	University degree	Total
Women						
Canadian-born	15%	11%	7%	7%	4%	8%
Immigrated before 1981	8%	9%	7%	7%	4%	7%
Immigrated 1981-1990	11%	11%	12%	7%	8%	9%
Immigrated 1991-1996	20%	15%	13%	14%	12%	14%
Men						
Canadian-born	18%	13%	8%	7%	4%	8%
Immigrated before 1981	13%	8%	9%	7%	5%	7%
Immigrated 1981-1990	9%	13%	13%	9%	5%	10%
Immigrated 1991-1996	18%	14%	9%	11%	10%	11%

The adjustment pattern just examined occurs at all levels of education. For instance, women who immigrated during the 1990s and who have a college or trade diploma have an unemployment rate of 14 per cent. The rate drops by one-half to 7 per cent for immigrants who landed during the 1980s. Earlier immigrants with a high school or post-secondary diploma or degree are as likely as the Canadian-born to be unemployed. Earlier immigrants who have not completed high school experience less unemployment than their Canadian-born counterparts.

Immigrant women experience more unemployment than men during the first five years in Canada, irrespective of their education level, but there is little overall difference between the genders among immigrants who landed before the 1990s.

The adjustment process appears to be shorter in the case of immigrants with only elementary schooling than for those with more education. This suggests that it takes time for better educated immigrants to find steady employment at a level that corresponds to their level of education. After the adjustment period, however, more educated immigrants generally experience less unemployment than the less educated.

Table D.6: Unemployment and knowledge of English, persons aged 15 to 64, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996

	Population share with no English	Unemployment rate		
		No English	English	Total
Women				
Canadian-born	n.a.	n.a.	8%	8%
Immigrated before 1981	3%	9%	7%	7%
Immigrated 1981-1990	8%	13%	9%	9%
Immigrated 1991-1996	13%	25%	13%	14%
Men				
Canadian-born	n.a.	n.a.	8%	8%
Immigrated before 1981	1%	11%	7%	7%
Immigrated 1981-1990	5%	15%	10%	10%
Immigrated 1991-1996	9%	15%	11%	11%

Recent immigrants who do not speak English are more likely to be unemployed than those that do. The difference in unemployment rates between those who speak English and those who do not varies from 2 to 12 percentage points, depending on gender and period of immigration. It occurs among earlier immigrants as well as recent immigrants. These are small differences compared to the effect of language on participation rates examined above. Knowledge of English is more important to the decision to seek employment than to the risk of losing it, but also has a notable effect on the likelihood of being unemployed.

Lack of knowledge of English has but a small effect on the unemployment rate among recent immigrants. This is so because the proportion of immigrants who do not speak English is not very large, and their unemployment rate is higher by a modest margin.

Table D.7: Employment ratio of persons aged 15 to 64 by age and gender, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996

	15-24	25-44	45-64	15-64	Employed
Women					
Canadian-born	59%	77%	64%	69%	159,800
Immigrated before 1981	67%	77%	61%	67%	22,400
Immigrated 1981-1990	46%	71%	56%	64%	10,800
Immigrated 1991-1996	40%	60%	40%	52%	6,200
Men					
Canadian-born	60%	87%	77%	78%	180,200
Immigrated before 1981	65%	87%	77%	80%	28,100
Immigrated 1981-1990	47%	84%	75%	74%	11,900
Immigrated 1991-1996	45%	75%	55%	64%	6,100

One-half of women of working age who immigrated during 1991 to 1996 (52%) are employed, and almost two thirds of men (64%). For immigrants who landed during the 1980s the proportions are 64 per cent for women and 74 per cent for men. As shown in the previous pages, these changes in employment ratios reflect mainly differences in labour force participation rates.

For earlier immigrants the ratios are even higher than for recent immigrants, and they are very close to those of the Canadian-born. In the youngest age group they are even substantially higher. Thus, in the labour market, immigrants catch up to the Canadian-born after a stay of 15 years.

Part-time jobs more common for very recent immigrants

Part-time employment is defined as having worked less than 30 hours per week during most of the weeks worked in the year 1995. Because the information relates to the entire year 1995, only persons who landed before 1995 are included among the most recent immigrants.

The share of part-time employment for the 15-64 age group is the average of the shares for the three age groups, weighted by the relative size of each age group. Because the age-specific rates vary so much, differences in age structure can have a major effect on the overall rate. The fact that immigrants who arrived before the 1980s are concentrated in the higher age groups gives them a low share of part-time employment compared to other groups. When the comparison is made for each age group, it becomes clear that these earlier immigrants are not very different from other groups with respect to the rate of part-time employment.

Table D.8: Part-time employment as a share of employment, by age and gender, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1995

	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	15-64
Women				
Canadian-born	59%	29%	30%	36%
Immigrated before 1981	65%	28%	29%	30%
Immigrated 1981-1990	66%	27%	29%	33%
Immigrated 1991-1994	60%	32%	34%	38%
Men				
Canadian-born	48%	7%	8%	15%
Immigrated before 1981	46%	7%	8%	10%
Immigrated 1981-1990	59%	9%	11%	17%
Immigrated 1991-1994	53%	15%	17%	22%

The proportion of employed persons who work part-time varies considerably by age and gender. About one-half to two-thirds of employed young adults work part-time, mainly because many also attend school. About three in ten employed women aged 25 to 64 work part-time, while for men, not including the most recent immigrants, the share is around 9 per cent.

Part-time employment is as common among immigrants between 25 and 64 years of age who landed in the 1980s or before as among the Canadian-born. However, immigrants who landed in the 1990s, men more so than women, are more likely to be employed part-time than those who have lived in the country for a longer period. This suggests that part-time employment is a way for some new immigrants to enter the work force.

Many employed recent immigrants in sales and services, processing occupations

Occupations are subdivided into six broad groups based on the 1991 Standard Occupational Classification, as follows:

(1) Sales and services	Sales and service occupations
(2) Processing	Occupations unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities
	Occupations unique to primary industry
(3) Administrative	Business, finance and administrative occupations
(4) Management and social	Occupations in social science, education, government services and religion
	Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport
	Management occupations
(5) Trades, transport	Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations
(6) Health, science	Health occupations
	Natural and applied sciences and related occupations

In examining the jobs of immigrants, the focus is on persons 25 to 64 years old. Younger people are not considered since many of them are still in school, and their jobs tend to be short-term and part-time and are less likely to be related to their education and career choices than the jobs of older adults.

Table D.9: Occupations of employed women and men aged 25 to 64, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996 (percentage distribution)

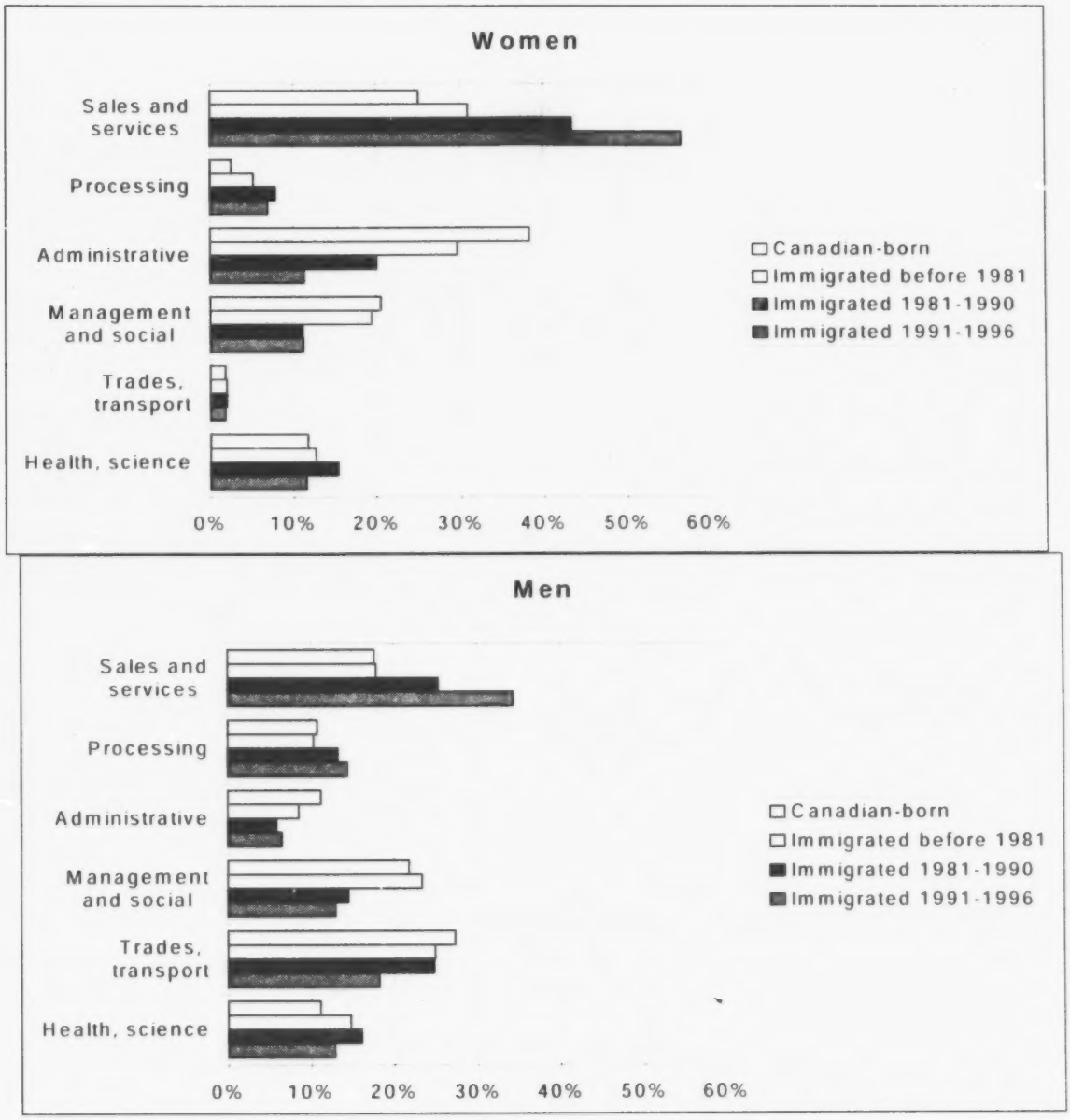
	Sales and services	Processing	Adminis-trative	Management and social	Trades, transport	Health, science	Total employed
Women							
Canadian-born	25%	3%	38%	21%	2%	12%	128,800
Immigrated before 1981	31%	5%	30%	19%	2%	13%	21,100
Immigrated 1981-1990	43%	8%	20%	11%	2%	15%	9,400
Immigrated 1991-1996	57%	7%	11%	11%	2%	12%	5,100
Men							
Canadian-born	18%	11%	11%	22%	27%	11%	148,800
Immigrated before 1981	18%	10%	9%	23%	25%	15%	26,700
Immigrated 1981-1990	25%	13%	6%	15%	25%	16%	10,300
Immigrated 1991-1996	34%	14%	7%	13%	18%	13%	5,000

Employed immigrants are more likely than their Canadian-born counterparts to work in sales and services and processing occupations, particularly so if they immigrated during the 1990s. More than one-half of employed women and over one-third of men who immigrated during 1991 to 1996 are employed in sales and service occupations, compared to one quarter of Canadian-born women and less than one-fifth (18%) of Canadian-born men .

By contrast, administrative and management and social occupations, which are favoured by the Canadian-born, account for a smaller share of employment of recent immigrants. In trades and transport occupations, employed recently immigrated men are under-represented.

There are probably many factors that contribute to these patterns, including the selection of immigrants and their level and field of education. But the choice of occupation by immigrants also reflects adjustment to the economy and barriers to entry into professions and trades. Many new immigrants probably find it easier to obtain employment in sales and services, and to a lesser extent in processing jobs than in other occupations.

Figure D.3: Occupations of employed women and men aged 25 to 64, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996 (percentage distribution)



Many employed recent immigrants in hospitality and other services

Industries are subdivided into six broad groups based on the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification, as follows:

Manufacturing	Primary industries and manufacturing
Construction & Transportation	Construction, transportation and storage, and communications
Trade	Wholesale and retail trade
Business services	Finance, insurance, real estate operators and insurance, and business services
Public sector	Government services, education and health services
Hospitality and other services	Accommodation, food and beverage industries, and other services

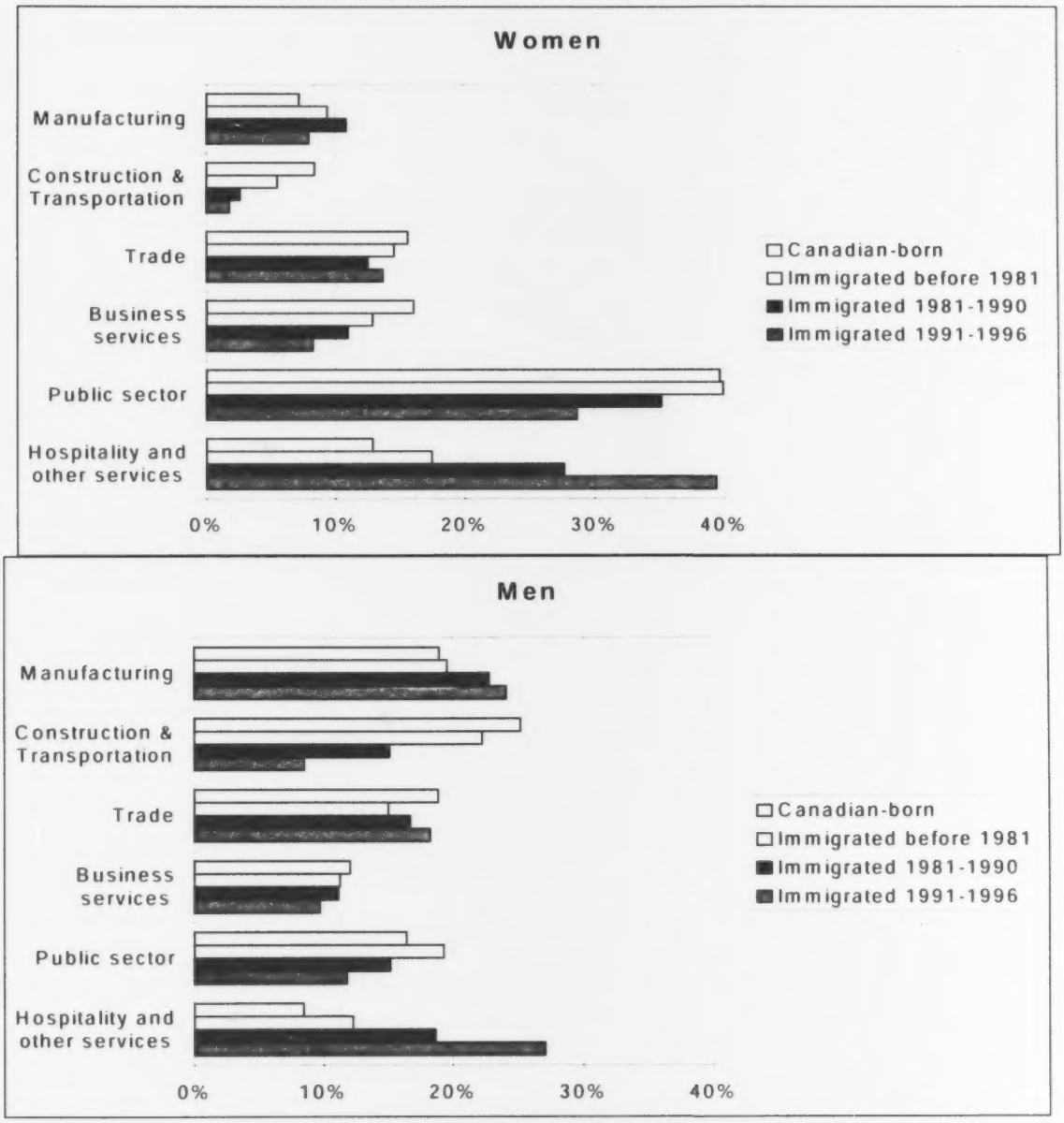
In the greater Edmonton area, a larger proportion of the jobs of recent immigrants aged 25 to 64 than of the Canadian-born are in hospitality and other services. The same is true for manufacturing, to a lesser degree. By contrast, construction and transportation, business services and the public sector account for lower shares of employment of recent immigrants than of the Canadian-born. The industrial distribution of employment of earlier immigrants is closer to that of the Canadian-born.

Table D.10: Employment by industry, persons aged 25 to 64, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996 (percentage distribution)

	Manufacturing	Construction & Transportation	Trade	Business services	Public sector	Hospitality and other services
Women						
Canadian-born	7%	8%	16%	16%	40%	13%
Immigrated before 1981	9%	6%	15%	13%	40%	17%
Immigrated 1981-1990	11%	3%	13%	11%	35%	28%
Immigrated 1991-1996	8%	2%	14%	8%	29%	39%
Men						
Canadian-born	19%	25%	19%	12%	16%	8%
Immigrated before 1981	20%	22%	15%	11%	19%	12%
Immigrated 1981-1990	23%	15%	17%	11%	15%	19%
Immigrated 1991-1996	24%	9%	18%	10%	12%	27%

The jobs of young Canadian-born people in the Edmonton area - who, like recent immigrants, are recent entrants into the labour market - are more concentrated in the trade sector and in hospitality and other services than those of recent immigrants aged 25 to 64. Each of these two industry groups provides from one-quarter to more than one-third of the jobs of Canadian-born aged 15 to 24 (not shown in Table D.10). By contrast, manufacturing, business services and the public sector each account for a larger share of employment of recent immigrants than of the young Canadian-born. Thus, the hospitality and other services sector is a major employer of jobs for both young Canadian-born persons and recent immigrants, but wholesale and retail trade is not as significant an employer for recent immigrants as it is for young Canadians.

Figure D.4: Employment by industry, persons aged 25 to 64, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996 (percentage distribution)



Skill requirements of jobs of recent immigrants lower

The tables and charts in this and the next section show the shares of jobs grouped by four levels of skill, level 4 being the highest and level 1 the lowest, as follows:

Level 1: Short work demonstration; no formal education required.
Level 2: Secondary school plus a period of specific job training.
Level 3: College level education or trade apprenticeship required.
Level 4: University education required.

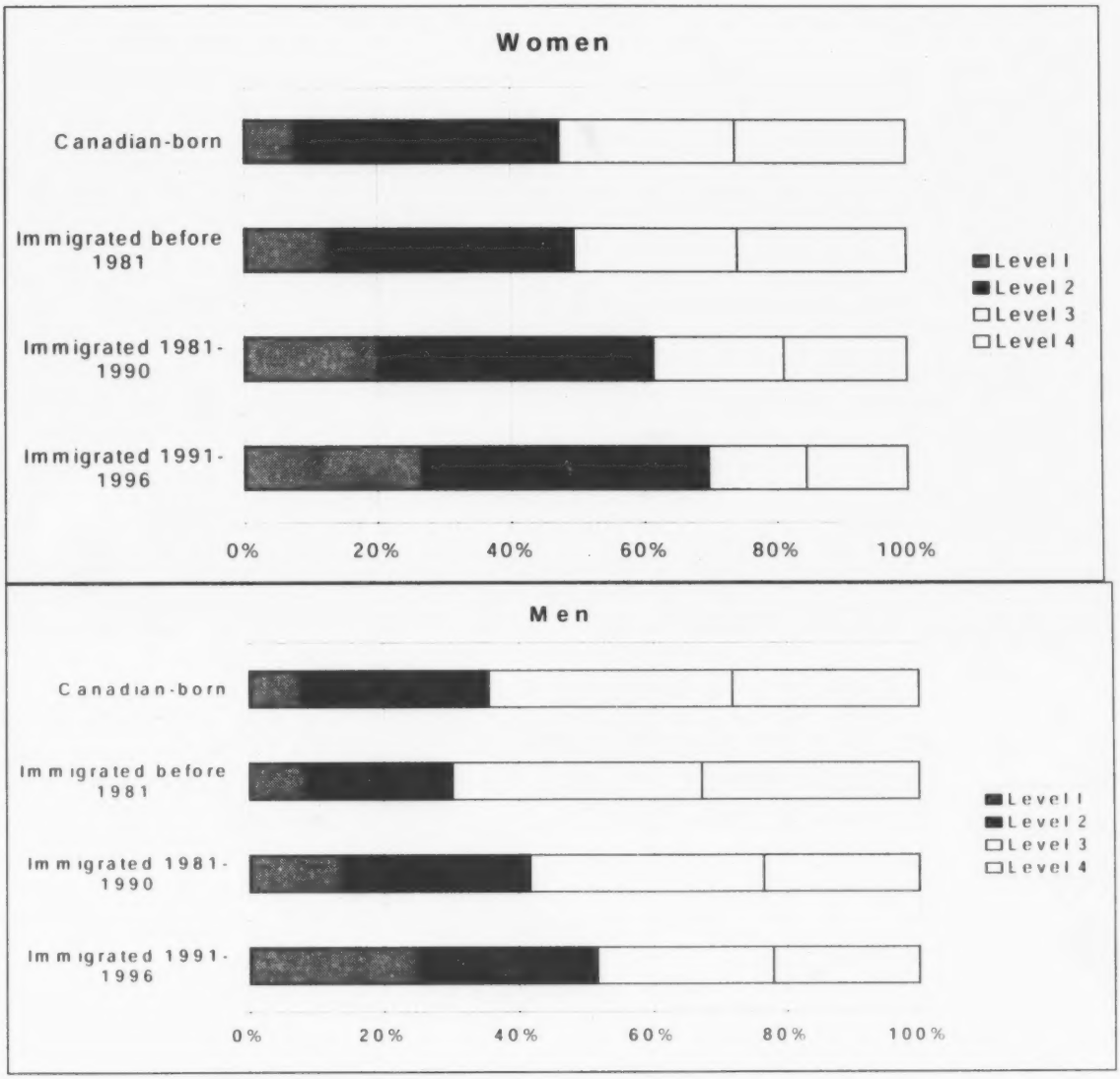
Table D.11: Employment by level of skill, women and men aged 25 to 64, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996 (percentage distribution)

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Women				
Canadian-born	8%	39%	26%	26%
Immigrated before 1981	12%	37%	25%	26%
Immigrated 1981-1990	20%	41%	20%	19%
Immigrated 1991-1996	27%	43%	15%	16%
Men				
Canadian-born	8%	28%	36%	28%
Immigrated before 1981	8%	22%	37%	33%
Immigrated 1981-1990	14%	28%	35%	24%
Immigrated 1991-1996	25%	27%	26%	22%

The jobs of recent immigrants require lower skills than the jobs of the Canadian-born. Twenty-eight per cent of the jobs of Canadian-born men require the highest level of skill, a university education. For immigrants who arrived after 1991, the proportion is 22 per cent. For women the proportions are 26 per cent for the Canadian-born, and 16 per cent for the most recent immigrants. The share of jobs of the most recent immigrants that requires the lowest level of skill is more than three times as high as for the Canadian-born.

For both men and women, the skill content of jobs of earlier immigrants is similar to that of the Canadian-born, although for women it is not quite as high. As with many other aspects of labour market activity and employment, this suggests the situation of immigrants converges to the situation of the Canadian-born as their stay in Canada lengthens.

Figure D.5: Employment by skill level, women and men aged 25 to 64, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996 (percentage distribution)



Education of recent immigrants not fully utilised

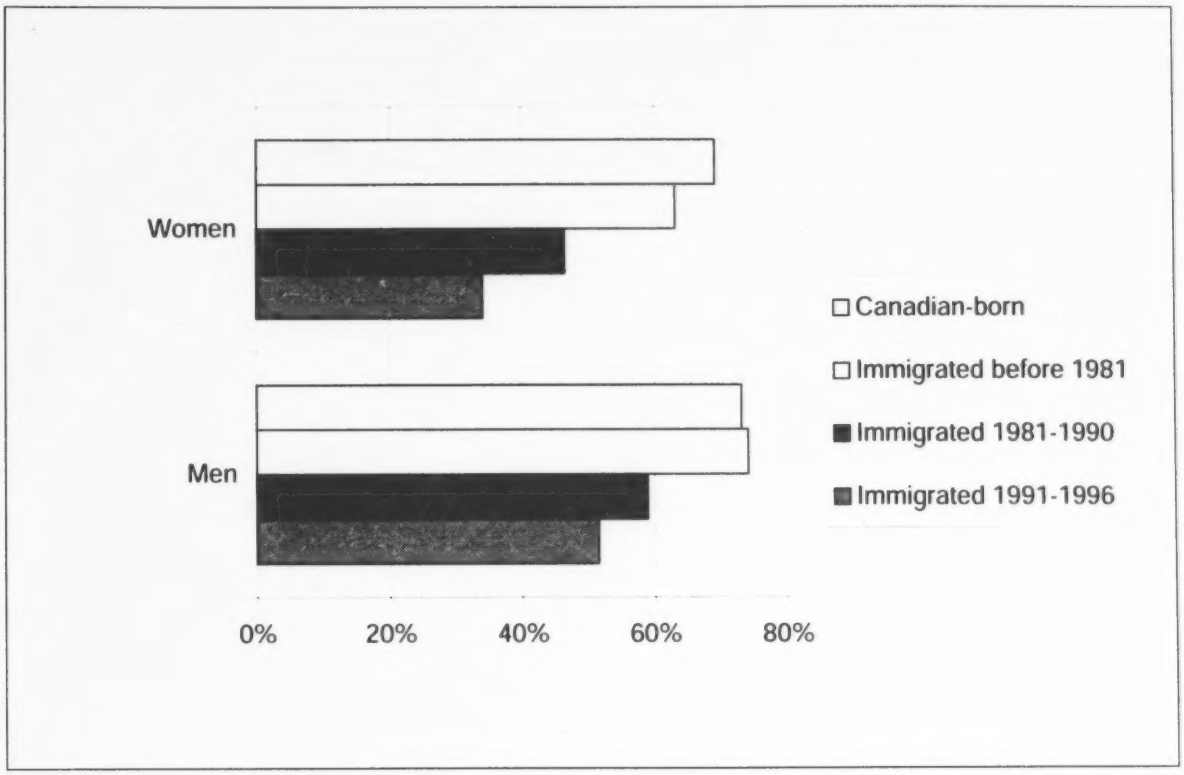
As there are differences in educational attainment between recent immigrants and the Canadian-born, the information presented above about skill levels of jobs does not directly indicate whether skills of recent immigrants are fully or less than fully employed in the economy. To do so, one has to compare the skill levels of jobs of recent immigrants and the Canadian-born for a given level of education. This is done in Table D.12 for persons holding a university degree, and can be done in the same way for other levels of educational attainment. The four skill levels are defined in the box above Table D.11.

Table D.12: Skill levels of jobs of university graduates, women and men aged 25 to 64, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996 (percentage distribution)

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Women				
Canadian-born	2%	14%	15%	69%
Immigrated before 1981	3%	16%	17%	63%
Immigrated 1981-1990	6%	27%	20%	46%
Immigrated 1991-1996	16%	37%	12%	34%
Men				
Canadian-born	2%	10%	15%	73%
Immigrated before 1981	2%	8%	15%	74%
Immigrated 1981-1990	9%	13%	19%	59%
Immigrated 1991-1996	14%	21%	13%	51%

The jobs of recent immigrants with a university degree do not require the same level of skill as the jobs of the Canadian-born. Two-thirds of employed Canadian-born women with a university degree have a job requiring a university degree. But only one-third of employed female university graduates who immigrated in the 1990s have a job at that level. Of Canadian-born men with a university degree the proportion in jobs requiring a university education is 73 per cent. But only one-half (51%) of the jobs of the most recent male immigrants with a university degree are at that level.

Figure D.6: Proportion of workers with a university degree who have a job requiring a university education, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996



PART E: INCOME

Sources and level of income

Sources of income show effect of migration

In this section, three broad sources of income are distinguished:

(1) Employment income, consisting of wages and salaries or income from self-employment;
(2) Other private income, consisting of investment income (mainly interest and dividends), retirement income and income from all other private sources; and
(3) Transfers from government, including Unemployment Insurance benefits, Canada and Quebec Pension Plan benefits, Old Age Security benefits and the Guaranteed Income Supplement, and other benefits such as workers' compensation and social assistance. Also included are the Child Tax Benefit, refunds of the Goods and Services Tax, and provincial tax credits.

A person may have income from one, two or all three sources. Income reported in the 1996 census is income for the year 1995, of persons 15 years of age and over. Most immigrants who landed during or after 1995 have not had the full year 1995 to obtain income in Canada, and are therefore not included.

Table E.1: Persons with income by source and without income, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1995 (as a percentage of the population of 15 years and over)

	No income	Employment income	Other private income	Government transfers	Number of persons
Women					
Canadian-born	8%	70%	34%	55%	259,500
Immigrated before 1981	6%	56%	41%	63%	45,600
Immigrated 1981-1990	11%	66%	21%	56%	18,900
Immigrated 1991-1994	15%	60%	20%	58%	10,400
Men					
Canadian-born	4%	81%	30%	71%	251,500
Immigrated before 1981	1%	71%	41%	81%	45,600
Immigrated 1981-1990	6%	77%	20%	79%	17,500
Immigrated 1991-1994	8%	71%	21%	80%	8,100

Income from employment is the most common source of income for the Canadian-born. Seventy per cent of Canadian-born women and 81 per cent of Canadian-born men had earnings from employment in 1995. A larger share of the Canadian-born than of immigrants have income from employment. For immigrants who arrived before the 1980s the proportion with employment earnings is low because they tend to be older and many are in retirement. The low share of recent immigrants with employment income reflects lower participation in the workforce.

Compared to the Canadian-born and earlier immigrants, the proportion of recent immigrants with no income is large. However, the proportion of immigrant men and women who do not have income decreases significantly with length of stay in Canada, and ultimately falls below that of the Canadian-born.

The share of recent immigrants who have other private income – income from investments, pension plans etc. – is lower than the share of the Canadian-born and earlier immigrants. This probably reflects the relatively young age of most recent immigrants, and lower savings related to the cost of and income loss associated with moving to a different country.

There are proportionately somewhat more recent immigrants than Canadian-born persons, particularly men, who receive some form of transfer from government. The high proportion of earlier immigrants receiving transfers from government reflects the high share of seniors in this group, who generally receive Old Age Security and Canada and Quebec Pension Plan benefits.

Average income increases with length of stay

In Tables E.2 and E.3 in this section on sources and level of income, average income refers to income of persons with income, and excludes persons who report no income. The proportion of persons who report no income is given in Table E.1. In the next section on the distribution of income, which includes tables E.5 and E.6, average income refers to income of all persons, families or households, including those with no income.

Table E.2: Level of income and distribution of income by source, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1995

		Income by source (percent of total)		
	Average income of persons with income	Employment income	Other private income	Government transfers
Women				
Canadian-born	$19,700	75%	11%	14%
Immigrated before 1981	$19,800	63%	15%	22%
Immigrated 1981-1990	$15,100	78%	6%	16%
Immigrated 1991-1994	$10,900	73%	11%	16%
Men				
Canadian-born	$33,200	83%	9%	8%
Immigrated before 1981	$33,900	74%	13%	13%
Immigrated 1981-1990	$23,400	85%	4%	11%
Immigrated 1991-1994	$16,800	79%	7%	14%

Among persons who reported having income during the year 1995, the average income of recent immigrants is lower than that of other Canadians living in Edmonton. For very recent immigrants, average income is just over one-half of that of the Canadian-born; those who immigrated during the 1980s have reached about three-quarters of that level; and earlier immigrants have pulled even with the population born in Canada. The relative levels and patterns are approximately the same for both genders, while average income of men is 55 per cent to 70 per cent higher than that of women. Among the reasons for the difference in income between men and women are lower labour force participation and higher incidence of part-time work among women than among men, as shown in Part D.

Earnings from employment make up about the same proportion of income of recent immigrants as of persons born in Canada. By contrast, transfers from government make up a somewhat larger share of the income of recent immigrants than of the Canadian-born. This is not because the transfers to recent immigrants are high, but because the total income of recent immigrants is relatively low. Other private income makes up a relatively small share of income of persons who immigrated during the 1980s, but one not quite so small for those who followed.

Table E.3: Wage and salary income of persons who worked mostly full-time, as a percentage of the overall average, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1995

	Amount	Percentage of overall average
Canadian-born	$32,700	102%
Immigrated before 1981	$34,200	107%
Immigrated 1981-1990	$24,600	77%
Immigrated 1991-1994	$17,200	54%
All who worked mostly full time	$32,000	100%

The wages and salaries earned by recent immigrants who worked mostly full-time in 1995 are well below the Edmonton average. As was shown in the previous section, recent immigrants generally have jobs that require lower skills than the jobs of the Canadian-born, and therefore would generally receive lower rates of pay. As well, annual earnings depend on whether a person was employed throughout the year or not. Recent immigrants are not as likely to have steady, year-round jobs as the Canadian-born.

Transfers from government a larger share of income except for seniors

To examine transfers from governments more closely, this section focuses on households. Households are classified according to the presence of immigrants and recent immigrants in the same way as in Part C. However, only immigrants who landed before 1995 are considered here. All households with immigrants who landed during 1995 and 1996 have been excluded. As transfers from government vary considerably with the age of the recipient, households are classified by age.

Defining "Age of household"
By age of household is meant the age of a principal person in the household. The age of family households is the age of the older of the spouses or the lone parent in the family. For non-family households, age refers to the age of the oldest person in the household.

Table E.4: Transfers from government to households, by age of household, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1995

	15-24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 and over	All households
Share of households receiving transfers					
Canadian-born households	92%	88%	84%	100%	89%
Earlier immigrants households	95%	88%	86%	100%	91%
Recent Immigrants households	87%	94%	93%	99%	94%
1980s immigrants	*88%*	*93%*	*91%*	*99%*	*93%*
1991-94 immigrants with others	*n.a.*	*94%*	*97%*	*99%*	*95%*
1991-94 immigrants only	*85%*	*98%*	*97%*	*99%*	*97%*
Average amount of transfer per receiving household					
Canadian-born households	$2,700	$3,700	$4,500	$15,600	$5,900
Earlier immigrants households	$2,400	$4,300	$5,000	$16,400	$8,600
Recent Immigrants households	$3,200	$4,700	$5,900	$12,400	$5,900
1980s immigrants	*$3,800*	*$4,600*	*$5,900*	*$13,500*	*$6,100*
1991-94 immigrants with others	*n.a.*	*$4,700*	*$6,800*	*$13,600*	*$6,500*
1991-94 immigrants only	*$3,000*	*$4,800*	*$5,000*	*$5,600*	*$4,800*
Transfers from governments as a share of average household income					
Canadian-born households	12%	6%	6%	41%	10%
Earlier immigrants households	11%	7%	7%	43%	15%
Recent Immigrants households	16%	11%	10%	28%	13%
1980s immigrants	*17%*	*10%*	*10%*	*32%*	*12%*
1991-94 immigrants with others	*n.a.*	*9%*	*11%*	*24%*	*12%*
1991-94 immigrants only	*21%*	*17%*	*14%*	*18%*	*16%*

In 1995, the large majority of households received transfers from government. Almost all households with persons of 65 years of age and older received such transfers – Old Age Security and the Guaranteed Income Supplement, Canada and Quebec Pension Plan benefits. But more than three out of four households without seniors received some income from a government program, whether from Unemployment Insurance, Workers Compensation, social assistance, student assistance, or other programs.

In the 25 to 64 age groups, recent immigrant households were more likely to receive a transfer from government than other households. These households were probably more in need of assistance from government during the early years after arriving in Canada, when many recent immigrants were not yet fully participating in the economy. As well, recent immigrant households are relatively large, and thus are likely to receive higher amounts of transfers either because more members are entitled to benefits like employment insurance payments or because of greater need. On the other hand, recent immigrant households would not have had time to build up significant entitlements under the Canada and Quebec Pension Plans.

The average payment received varies considerably by age of household. Households of Canadian-born seniors and of seniors who immigrated before 1981 received an average payment in the order of $16,000. Households of recently immigrated seniors on average received less than households of Canadian-born seniors.

Other households received from $2,400 to $6,800. Households of recent immigrants in the 25-64 age group had a higher probability of receiving government transfers and received somewhat higher average amounts than households of the Canadian-born and earlier immigrants in the same age group.

Government transfers make up a significantly smaller share of income of recent immigrant households than of other households in the case of households of seniors, and a somewhat larger share in the case of other immigrant households.

Personal income reaches parity and similar distribution over time

Table E.5: **Distribution of personal income, persons 15 years and over, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1995 (percentage distribution)**

	Without income	$1 to $10,000	$10,000 to $30,000	$30,000 to $50,000	over $50,000	Average income
Women						
Canadian-born	8%	30%	41%	16%	5%	$18,100
Immigrated before 1981	6%	26%	49%	14%	5%	$18,800
Immigrated 1981-1990	11%	37%	42%	8%	2%	$13,300
Immigrated 1991-1994	15%	47%	34%	4%	1%	$9,200
Men						
Canadian-born	4%	20%	30%	26%	20%	$31,800
Immigrated before 1981	1%	14%	39%	26%	20%	$33,700
Immigrated 1981-1990	6%	27%	39%	18%	9%	$21,900
Immigrated 1991-1994	8%	35%	43%	10%	3%	$15,400

Of very recent immigrants, 62 per cent of women and 43 per cent of men reported no income or income of less than $10,000 in 1995. The share reporting no income or income below $10,000 is lower for persons who immigrated during the 1980s, and even lower for earlier immigrants.

At the high end of the income scale, recent immigrants and especially very recent immigrants are underrepresented. The proportion with incomes over $50,000 is less than half as large among immigrants who landed during the 1980s as among the Canadian-born.

If the circumstances of earlier immigrants can be taken as an indication of what recent immigrants can be expected to achieve with time, then a general, widespread upward shift can be expected in incomes of persons who immigrated during the 1980s and 1990s in years to come.

The incomes of earlier immigrants are distributed more or less like those of the Canadian-born, although they are concentrated more in the lower middle range of $10,000 to $30,000. In part this reflects the fact that many earlier immigrants are seniors receiving old age benefits. In any event, the income distribution of immigrants appears to come close to that of the Canadian-born over time.

One-half of recent immigrant households have income below $40,000

Table E.6: Distribution of household income, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1995 (percentage distribution)

Households	$0 to $20,000	$20,000 to $40,000	$40,000 to $60,000	$60,000 to $80,000	Over $80,000	Average income
Canadian-born	21%	25%	22%	16%	16%	$50,100
Earlier immigrants	19%	26%	21%	15%	19%	$53,000
Recent immigrants	24%	29%	23%	13%	11%	$44,200
1980s immigrants	*31%*	*28%*	*18%*	*10%*	*12%*	*$42,600*
1991-94 immigrants with others	*14%*	*25%*	*23%*	*16%*	*22%*	*$60,300*
1991-94 immigrants only	*43%*	*31%*	*16%*	*6%*	*4%*	*$29,700*

In 1995, recent immigrant households had average income of $44,200, or 88 per cent of the income of Canadian-born, and 84 per cent of the income of earlier immigrant households. The income of households consisting only of very recent immigrants is 59 per cent of the income of households of the Canadian-born.

Recent immigrant households are found in somewhat larger proportions than the Canadian-born in the lower income ranges. About one-half of these households have incomes of less than $40,000, compared to 46% of Canadian-born and 45% of earlier immigrant households. The income of one-quarter (24%) of recent immigrant households is less than $20,000, compared to 21 per cent of Canadian-born households. The opposite pattern is found at incomes over $80,000.

A large share of recent immigrants have low incomes

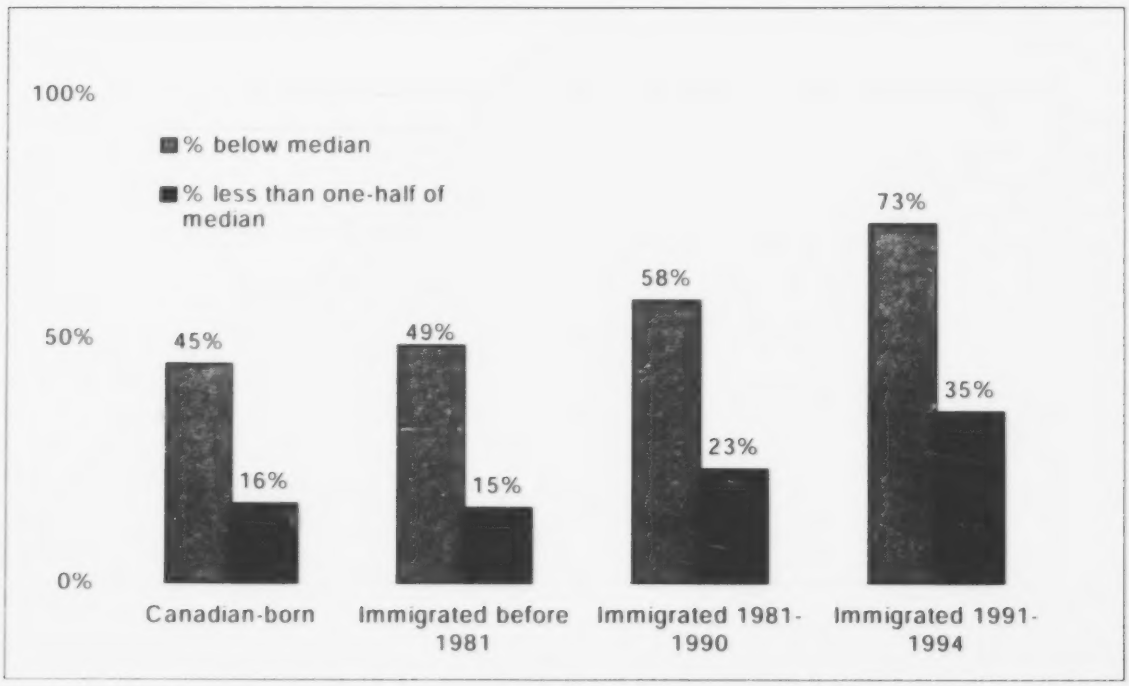
One way of examining income inequality is to see whether persons in certain groups are more likely than persons in other groups to have incomes that fall below the overall median income. The median income is the middle income when incomes are ordered by size, from high to low. One-half of incomes are higher, one-half are lower. And to measure more severe inequality, the percentage of incomes falling below one-half of the median income is examined.

Figure E.1 and Table E.7 show the percentage of people with income below the median. For people living in families, the family income was compared to the median family income. For non-family persons – much smaller in number, particularly among recent immigrants – their individual income was compared to the median income of all non-family persons. Unattached individuals under 15 years of age are not included as no income data is available. The proportion of persons with income below one-half of the median, shown in Figure E.1 and Table E.8, was derived in the same way.

In Edmonton in 1995, the median income of all families (defined as two or more persons related by blood, marriage, common-law status or adoption, and living together in the same household) was $50,910. For individuals not living in families, median income was $18,760.

As family size has not been considered in these calculations, and as larger families are likely to have higher income (but not necessarily higher income per member of the family), the number of persons in the total population living in families with income below the median is less than 50 per cent. 49 per cent of women and 44 per cent of men live in families with income below the median. 18 per cent of women and 16 per cent of men live in families with income below one-half of the median.

Figure E.1: Persons in families and unattached individuals with income below the median and below one-half of the median, as a percentage of the population, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1995



Recent immigrants are more likely than earlier immigrants and the Canadian-born to live in families with incomes that fall below the overall median, or if they do not live in families, to have income below the median for unattached individuals. They are also more likely to live in families with incomes that fall below one-half of the median income. The percentage of immigrants in families with incomes in the lower part of the income distribution declines in relation to their length of stay in Canada.

Table E.7: Persons in families and unattached individuals with income below the median, as a percentage of all persons, by age and gender, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1995

	Under 15	15 to 24	25 to 64	65 and over	All persons
Women					
Canadian-born	49%	51%	42%	65%	47%
Immigrated before 1981	n.a.	49%	45%	69%	51%
Immigrated 1981-1990	70%	60%	57%	60%	59%
Immigrated 1991 - 1994	81%	73%	73%	61%	73%
Men					
Canadian-born	49%	44%	37%	62%	43%
Immigrated before 1981	n.a.	47%	39%	68%	46%
Immigrated 1981-1990	62%	57%	56%	60%	57%
Immigrated 1991 - 1994	81%	73%	72%	66%	74%

The proportion of people with incomes below the median varies with age. For the Canadian-born and earlier immigrants, the highest proportions are found among seniors. But this is not so for the most recent immigrants, where incomes below the median are more common at younger ages. Persons who immigrated during the 1980s occupy a middle ground.

In all age groups except seniors the proportion of persons with income below the overall median is much higher among recent immigrants than among the Canadian-born. The results for seniors probably reflect programs of income support for seniors as well as extended-family arrangements which are relatively common for recently immigrated seniors.

Table E.8: **Persons in families and unattached individuals with income below one-half of the median, as a percentage of all persons, by age and gender, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1995**

	Under 15	15 to 24	25 to 64	65 and over	All persons
Women					
Canadian-born	20%	24%	15%	13%	17%
Immigrated before 1981	n.a.	22%	16%	14%	16%
Immigrated 1981-1990	32%	25%	23%	22%	24%
Immigrated 1991 - 1994	37%	40%	33%	30%	35%
Men					
Canadian-born	19%	19%	11%	17%	15%
Immigrated before 1981	n.a.	19%	13%	20%	15%
Immigrated 1981-1990	32%	25%	20%	28%	23%
Immigrated 1991 - 1994	41%	41%	32%	29%	35%

More than one-third of the most recent immigrants (35%) live in a low-income situation. The share of most recently immigrated seniors is 30 per cent for women and 29 per cent for men. These shares are about 15 percentage points higher than among the Canadian-born. Similar and larger differences are found in other age groups. The share of the most recent immigrants other than seniors with income below one-half of the overall median income ranges from one-third to 41 per cent depending one age. This share drops to between 20 and 32 per cent for immigrants who landed during the 1980s.

PART F: HOUSING

Crowded accommodation more common for recent immigrants

In Tables F.1 and F.2, a room is defined as an enclosed area within a dwelling that is suitable for year-round living: a living room, bedroom, kitchen, or a finished room in attic or basement. Not counted as rooms are bathrooms, halls, vestibules and spaces used solely for business purposes. Accommodation is defined as "crowded" when there are more persons in the household than rooms in the dwelling, i.e. when there is more than one person per room.

Table F.1: Number of persons per room, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996 (percentage distribution)

Households	Fewer than 0.5 persons	0.5 to 0.74 persons	0.75 to 0.99 persons	1 or more persons	Number of households
Canadian-born	65%	27%	5%	4%	232,100
Earlier immigrants	63%	28%	5%	4%	57,600
Recent immigrants	26%	35%	15%	24%	29,200
1980s immigrants	31%	37%	14%	18%	17,000
1990s immigrants with others	22%	33%	16%	30%	6,200
1990s immigrants only	20%	29%	15%	36%	6,000

Households of recent immigrants have space per person that is well below the average in the Edmonton area. Twenty-four per cent of recent immigrant households live in crowded conditions (i.e. there are fewer rooms than people in the home). The incidence of crowding is highest among households consisting only of very recent immigrants (36%). By contrast, crowding is very rare among households of the Canadian-born and earlier immigrants (4%).

Table F.2: Persons per room and size of household, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996 (percentage distribution)

Household size	Type of household	Fewer than 0.5 persons	0.5 to 0.74 persons	0.75 to 0.99 persons	1 or more persons	Number of households
1 to 3 persons	Canadian-born	78%	18%	2%	2%	171,700
	Earlier immigrants	79%	18%	1%	2%	40,800
	Recent immigrants	43%	34%	8%	16%	15,200
	1980s immigrants	*50%*	*32%*	*6%*	*11%*	*8,600*
	1990s immigrants with others	*37%*	*38%*	*8%*	*17%*	*3,000*
	1990s immigrants only	*30%*	*34%*	*10%*	*26%*	*3,600*
4 or 5 persons	Canadian-born	29%	54%	11%	6%	54,500
	Earlier immigrants	28%	55%	10%	7%	14,900
	Recent immigrants	11%	43%	21%	25%	10,500
	1980s immigrants	*13%*	*48%*	*20%*	*19%*	*6,700*
	1990s immigrants with others	*11%*	*41%*	*20%*	*28%*	*1,900*
	1990s immigrants only	*6%*	*27%*	*22%*	*45%*	*1,900*
6 or more persons	Canadian-born	7%	37%	31%	25%	5,800
	Earlier immigrants	5%	37%	34%	24%	2,000
	Recent immigrants	2%	15%	27%	56%	3,500
	1980s immigrants	*2%*	*22%*	*29%*	*47%*	*1,700*
	1990s immigrants with others	*2%*	*11%*	*27%*	*60%*	*1,300*
	1990s immigrants only	*0%*	*7%*	*22%*	*71%*	*500*

Crowding is related to size of household. The larger the household, the greater the chance that there are more persons than rooms in the dwelling. This pattern is found among households of the Canadian-born as well as immigrants. But there is much less crowding in households of the Canadian-born than in households of recent immigrants, whatever their size.

As shown earlier, households of immigrants who arrived before the 1980s are similar to the households of the Canadian-born in size (see Table C.8). They also have accommodation that is similar in size to that of the Canadian-born. This suggests that immigrants form large households and live in relatively crowded conditions for a period after their arrival, so as to keep the cost of accommodation down. But when economic circumstances permit, they split into smaller household units or move to more spacious accommodation. Households also become smaller when children of immigrants become adults and establish their own households.

One third of households have high housing cost in relation to income

Table F.3: Cost of accommodation as a share of household income, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1995 (percentage distribution)

Households	Less than 30%	30% to 50%	50% or more
Canadian-born	77%	14%	10%
Earlier immigrants	80%	13%	7%
Recent immigrants	68%	17%	14%
1980s immigrants	71%	16%	13%
1991-94 immigrants with others	76%	16%	8%
1991-94 immigrants only	54%	22%	24%
All households	76%	14%	10%

Almost one-half of households (46%) made up exclusively of immigrants who have been in Canada for five years or less spend more than 30 per cent of their income on accommodation. For one quarter of these households (24%) the cost of accommodation exceeds 50 per cent of income. Of Canadian-born households, only one quarter (24%) have housing cost in excess of 30 per cent of income.

Housing costs of more than 30 per cent of income are considered burdensome, and households facing that level of cost as a rule have low incomes. Many households of recently arrived immigrants have low incomes and try to keep the cost of accommodation down by choosing small quarters and making their households large. But often this is not enough to bring housing costs down to less than 30 per cent of income.

Table F.4: Period of construction, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996 (percentage distribution)

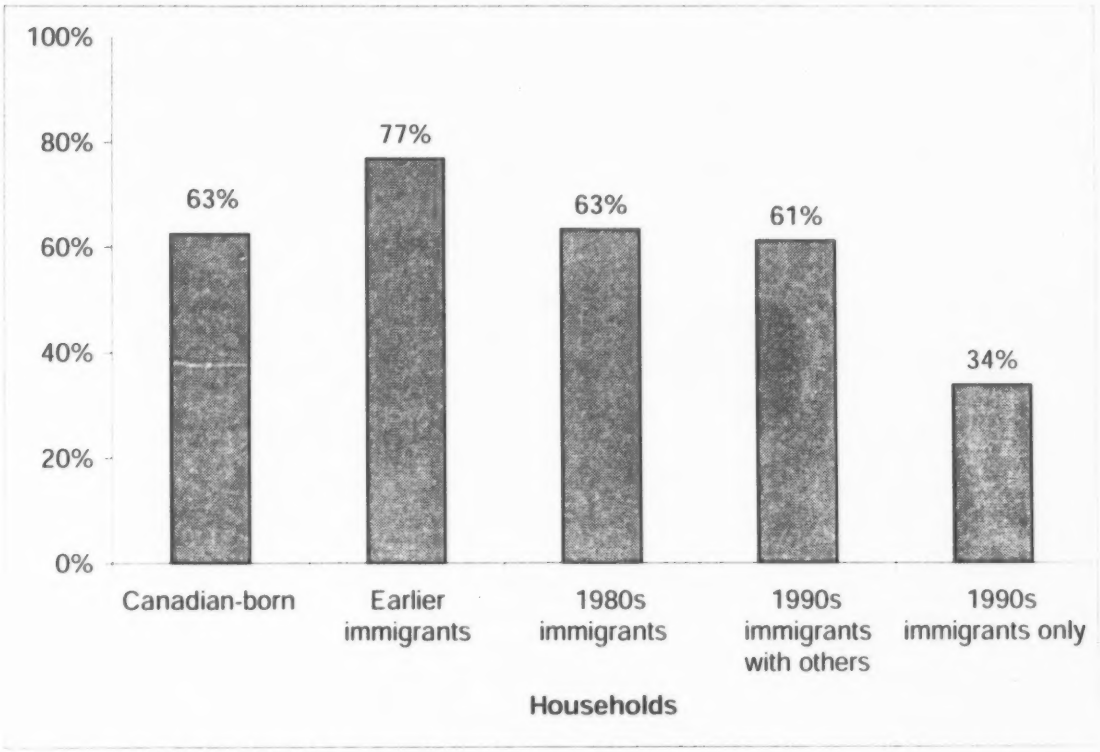
Households	Before 1961	1961-1980	After 1980
Canadian-born	22%	50%	28%
Earlier immigrants	21%	49%	30%
Recent immigrants	14%	50%	36%
1980s immigrants	*15%*	*49%*	*36%*
1990s immigrants with others	*15%*	*47%*	*38%*
1990s immigrants only	*11%*	*56%*	*33%*
All households	21%	50%	29%

The dwellings where households of immigrants who arrived after 1980 live have been more recently built than the houses of the Canadian-born, and the proportion in need of major repair is relatively low. This suggests that, although the cost of housing is clearly a challenge for many recent immigrants, they tend not to resort to sub-standard accommodation.

Table F.5: Quality of housing, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996 (percentage distribution)

Households	Regular maintenance	Minor repairs	Major repairs
Canadian-born	66%	28%	7%
Earlier immigrants	69%	25%	6%
Recent immigrants	71%	24%	5%
1980s immigrants	70%	25%	5%
1990s immigrants with others	70%	24%	6%
1990s immigrants only	75%	21%	4%
All households	67%	27%	6%

Figure F.1: Households owning their home as a percentage of all households, Edmonton Metropolitan Area, 1996



One-third (34%) of households consisting exclusively of immigrants who arrived during 1991-1996 own their home, compared to almost two-thirds (63%) of households of the Canadian-born and over three-quarters (77%) of earlier immigrants. The rate of home ownership among joint households of very recent immigrants and others is 61 per cent, while that of households of immigrants who landed during the 1980s is 63 per cent, the same as among the Canadian-born.

Home-ownership is much higher among earlier immigrants than the Canadian-born. This probably reflects the higher average age of earlier immigrants, but it may also point to different choices. It also suggests that the high frequency of rental tenure among households consisting only of recent immigrants is a temporary phenomenon that is a part of the adjustment process.